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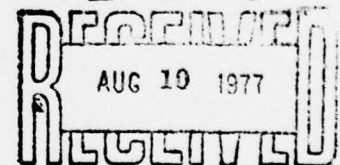
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SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

ENGINEERING STUDY NO. 526

October 1975



A

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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## PREFACE

The investigation reported herein is part of a continuing investigation for the Office, Chief of Engineers (OCE), under Item ES 526 of the Soil Mechanics Engineering Studies Program. It was authorized by OCE by multiple letter ENGOW-EC, 1 November 1962, "Civil Works Investigation - FY 1963". Since July 1973, funding of this study has been from WES and the study designation has been changed to CWIS No. 31202 - Shear Strength of Rockfill.

The study was performed under the general direction of Mr. R. A. Barron, former Chief, Soils Branch, OCE, Mr. A. L. O'Neill, Chief, Geology, Soils and Materials Branch, SPD, and Mr. D. D. Leslie, former Chief.

The testing and preparation of the report were performed under the direction of Mr. M. W. Cohen under the supervision of Mr. E. A. Hein, Chief, Soils Section, and direction of Mr. J. E. Ott, former Director, and Mr. R. A. Chisholm, Director, Division Laboratory. Mr. Leslie provided technical review of the report.

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PREVIOUS REPORTS ON

COARSE MATERIALS

Shear Strength of Rock Fill, Alluvial Gravel,  
Engineering Study 526

March 1972

Shear Strength of Rock Fill, Engineering  
Study 526. Crushed Basalt and Metavolcanic  
Straight-Line Gradations

December 1967

"R" Type Triaxial Compression Tests on Gravel,  
Civil Works Investigation No. 521-C

November 1963

Triaxial Shear Tests on Sands and Gravels.  
Civil Works Investigation, No. 521-B,  
Combined Report

September 1961

Effect of Rock Sizes on Shear Strength, Civil  
Works Investigation No. 488, Interim Report

February 1956

Shear Strength of Gravelly Soils, Civil  
Works Investigation No. 512

March 1953



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# CONVERSION FACTORS, BRITISH TO METRIC UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

British units of measurement used in this report can be converted to metric units as follows:

<u>Multiply</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>To Obtain</u>
inches	25.4	millimeters
feet	30.48	centimeters
pounds per square inch	0.070307	kilograms per square centimeter
tons per square foot	2.4412	kilograms per square meter
pounds per cubic foot	16.0185	kilograms per cubic meter
gallons	3.78533	liters



ENGINEERING STUDY 526  
SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCKFILL  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

INTRODUCTION

1. Several years ago, the Corps of Engineers departed drastically from the then current practice of constructing rockfill dams by dumping random rock sizes, often weighing as much as several tons, in lifts up to 50 feet thick. Instead, the Corps adopted the procedure of limiting particle sizes to 24 to 36 inches and compacting in layers of equal thickness. Also, where only assumptions of strength, permeability and consolidation had been made, equipment and methods were developed to determine these parameters in the laboratory.
2. This is the third report of a laboratory study carried on since 1963 to investigate the shear strength properties of coarse fill materials. Previous reports of Engineering Study 526 dealt with the influence of gradation, confining pressure and relative density on the shear strength of rockfill and gravelly materials using artificial gradations. It was found that shear strength increased with increasing coefficient of uniformity and relative density, and decreased with increasing confining pressure. One of the most important findings was that modeled gradations would give reasonably identical results, making it possible to predict the shear strength of gradations as placed in the dam.
3. In this study, shear and consolidation characteristics have been correlated with physical properties. Originally, the intent was to study only the relation of physical properties to shear strength, but, since consolidation is an equally important consideration in the performance

of rockfill dams, consolidation characteristics were also investigated. Seven varieties of crushed rock of varying hardness and mineralogy from the west coast and southeast were tested, as follows:

Napa basalt	Sonora dolomite
New Hogan Dam metavolcanic	Laurel Dam sandstone
Carters Dam quartzite	Buchanan Dam granite
Cougar Dam basalt	

In addition, an alluvial gravel from Black Butte Dam was tested for consolidation only. The test gradation was selected by examining in-place gradations of several existing rockfill dams and determining a modeled gradation, which was referred to as the Natural Gradation (Fig. 1). In order to eliminate the variable of gradation, all tests on all varieties of rock were prepared using this gradation. The maximum particle size in the earlier stages was three inches, but was later reduced to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches for Sonora dolomite to conform with the more favorable specimen diameter to maximum particle-size ratio of five.

4. Twelve-inch diameter triaxial specimens of each rock type were saturated, and tested in a drained condition at confining pressures of 60, 125, 300 and 400 psi at both maximum and a lower density. Twelve-inch diameter consolidation specimens were tested in both the saturated and dry conditions under axial pressures of 15, 30, 60, 120, 250, 600 and 800 psi only at maximum density. The gradations of all specimens were determined after testing to evaluate particle breakage.

5. Physical properties of each material were determined by the following tests: compressive strength, abrasion loss, specific gravity, soundness by magnesium sulphate, shape factor, scratch hardness, and absorption. Petrographic classifications were performed to determine mineralogical characteristics.





## MATERIAL

6. General. In this report, rockfill materials are referred to by names related to their location and rock type. Most were used or proposed for rockfill dams by the Corps of Engineers. Two materials, Napa basalt and Sonora dolomite, were chosen for reasons stated below.

### 7. Napa Basalt

a. This material was selected because of its reputation as an exceptionally hard and durable rock. It was obtained from a commercial source, Blue Rock Quarry of Basalt Rock Company near Napa, California, 50 miles northeast of San Francisco. It was produced primarily for aggregate.

b. The rock was a grayish-black, dense basalt in fresh and hard condition. Particle shapes were cubical, pyramidal and tabular (Fig. 2).

c. X-ray diffraction indicated that it was composed principally of plagioclase feldspar with interstitial glass and lesser quantities of labradorite and andesine with traces of montmorillonite clay.

### 8. Sonora Dolomite

a. This material was selected to represent a softer rock. It was obtained from a commercial source, Shaw's Flat Quarry of Sonora Aggregate Co. 65 miles northwest of Modesto, California. It was produced primarily for decorative purposes.

b. This rock was mostly fresh, white to light-gray dolomite containing some weathered particles which had an iron oxide stain and which were soft and granular. Shapes were predominately cubical, pyramidal and tabular (Fig. 2).

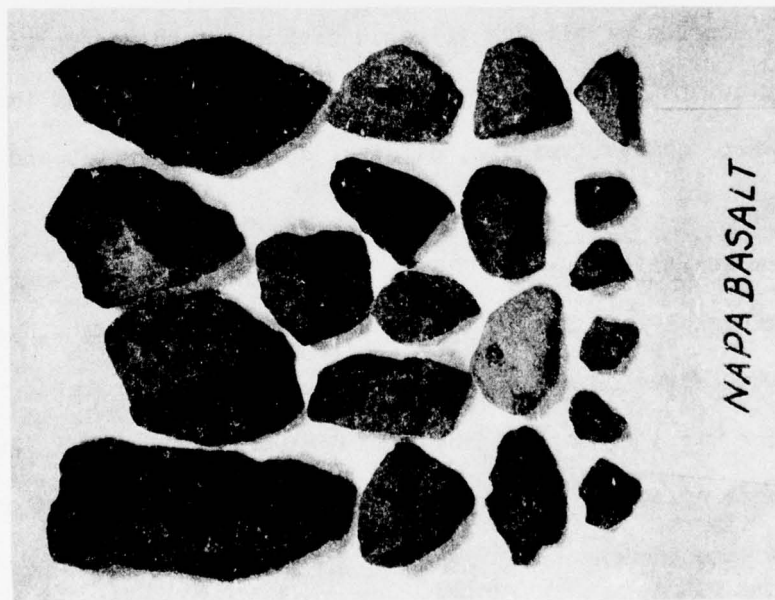


Fig. 2

c. Its origin was the result of dolomitization of a recrystallized limestone. It contained minor quantities of calcite, muscovite, and pyrite.

9. New Hogan Dam Metavolcanic

a. This material was obtained from a quarry one mile downstream from the dam on the Calaveras River, 3 miles from Valley Springs, California, 30 miles east of Stockton. This quarry was developed to produce and process rock specifically for construction of the dam. During construction of the embankment, 1961-1963, this material was used for the outer shell and transition zones.

b. This rock, commonly called greenstone, was light to dark grayish-green, varying from coarse to fine-grained texture, and was in fresh and hard condition. Particle shapes were predominately blocky, elongated, pyramidal and tabular (Fig. 3).

c. It was composed of altered volcanic fragments and ash particles consolidated by epidotization. X-ray diffraction indicates that the constituents were: quartz, epidote, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, and albite feldspar.

10. Carters Dam Quartzite

a. This material was used in the construction of the dam situated on the Cossawattec River 80 miles northwest of Atlanta, Georgia.

b. The rock was a fresh, bluish-gray, medium-grained, hard, impure quartzite composed primarily of interlocking, irregular quartz grains. Particle shapes were predominately cubical, pyramidal, and tabular with a tendency toward flatness in the smaller sizes (Fig. 3).

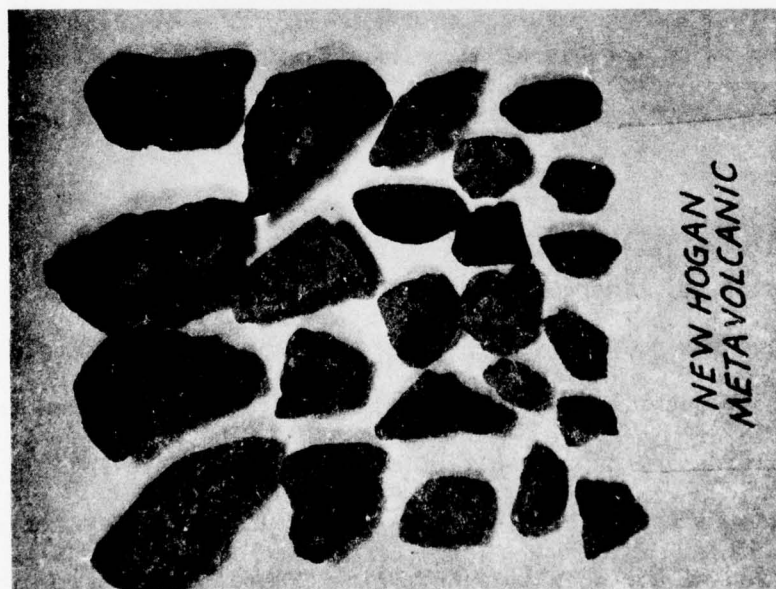
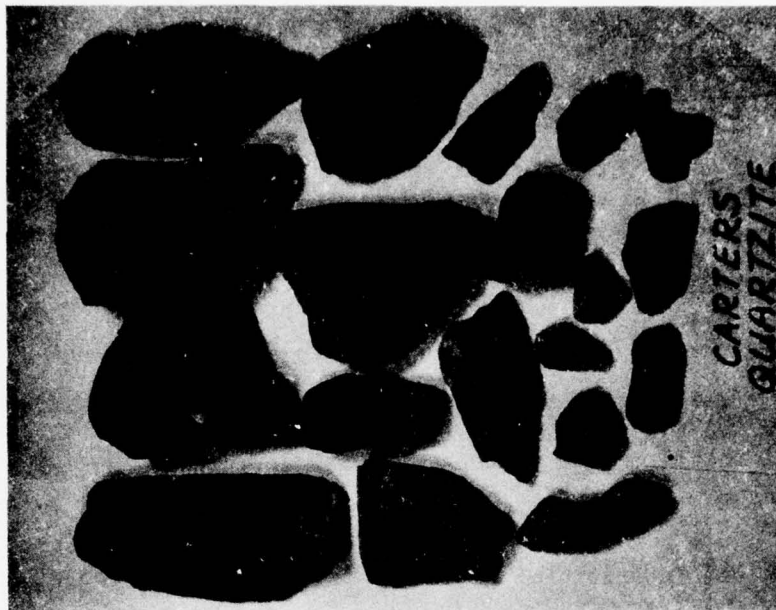


Fig. 3



c. The predominant mineral was quartz, however, x-ray diffraction indicated muscovite, biotite, calcite, and pyrite were also present.

#### 11. Cougar Dam Basalt

a. The dam is 50 miles east of Eugene, Oregon, on the South fork of the McKenzie River. This material was used in the shell of the dam and was obtained from both the spillway excavation and a quarry downstream near the right abutment.

b. The rock was fresh and hard, dark grayish-green to black columnar basalt. Particle shapes were cubical, pyramidal, and wedge-like (Fig. 4). Small vesicles were present in most particles.

c. The rock was composed of plagioclase feldspar with scattered grains of quartz and interstitial glass. X-ray diffraction detected a trace of montmorillonite clay.

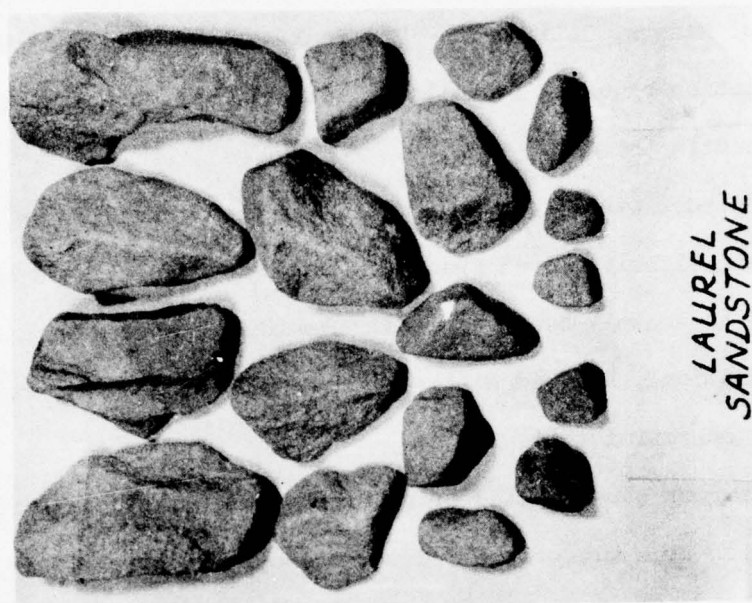
#### 12. Laurel Dam Sandstone

a. This dam is on the Laurel River near London, Kentucky, about 90 miles south of Lexington. This material was taken from a bluff upstream from the dam.

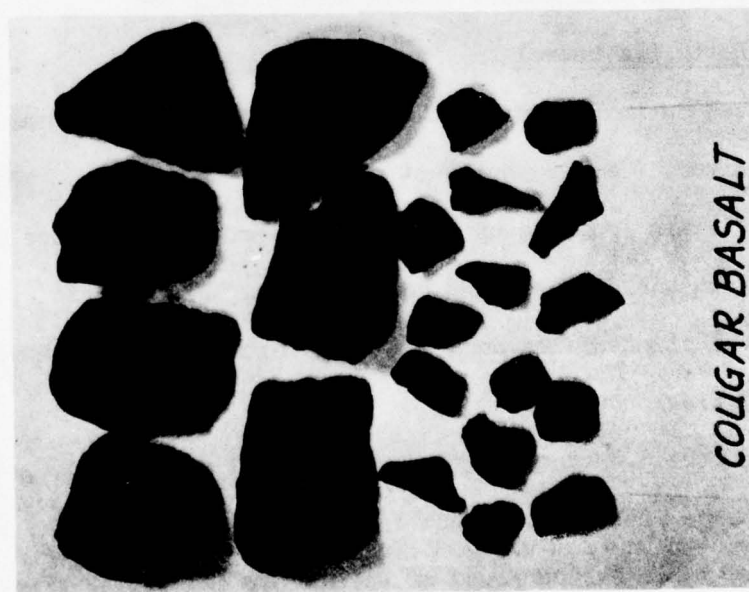
b. The rock was porous, argillaceous sandstone from the Pennsylvania formation. The color varied from ochre through light tan to light gray, and the particle shapes were predominately pyramidal and cubical with lesser quantities of wedge and tabular pieces. Edges and corners were well-rounded as a result of abrasion during sieving (Fig. 4).

c. The rock was composed principally of angular to subangular grains of clear quartz and minute quantities of feldspar and muscovite, weakly cemented to varying degrees by a mixture of secondary silica and kaolinite.





LAUREL  
SANDSTONE



COUGAR BASALT

Fig. 4

13. Buchanan Dam Weathered Granite

a. This material was taken from a quarry about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles upstream from Buchanan Dam which is on the Chowchilla River about 30 miles northeast of Madera, California. The rock was obtained from the surface of the formation by using a shallow blast. It was more weathered than the rock used in the dam.

b. The rock was light gray, medium-grained granodiorite, having many open and tightly-closed fractures. Some particles were soft and friable due to loosely-bonded grains. Particle shapes were mainly cubical, pyramidal, and wedge-like. Edges and corners were rounded in the sieving operation (Fig. 5).

c. The rock was composed of quartz grains, plagioclase feldspar crystals, with some microcline and orthoclase. Biotite flakes, with some weathering and alteration to chlorite, were intermixed throughout. The more weathered plagioclase showed some alteration.

14. Black Butte Dam Gravel

a. Black Butte Dam is located on Stony Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River, 9 miles northwest of Orland, California. This material was taken from the upper three feet of the streambed one mile downstream from the dam. During construction, this material was used in the pervious section of the dam. In this report, the gravel was tested for consolidation only.

b. The stream channel particles were hard and stream rounded to a subangular shape with distinct but fairly rounded edges (Fig. 5).

c. The gravel was composed of volcanics, quartzite, jasper, vein quartz, and granitic rocks.

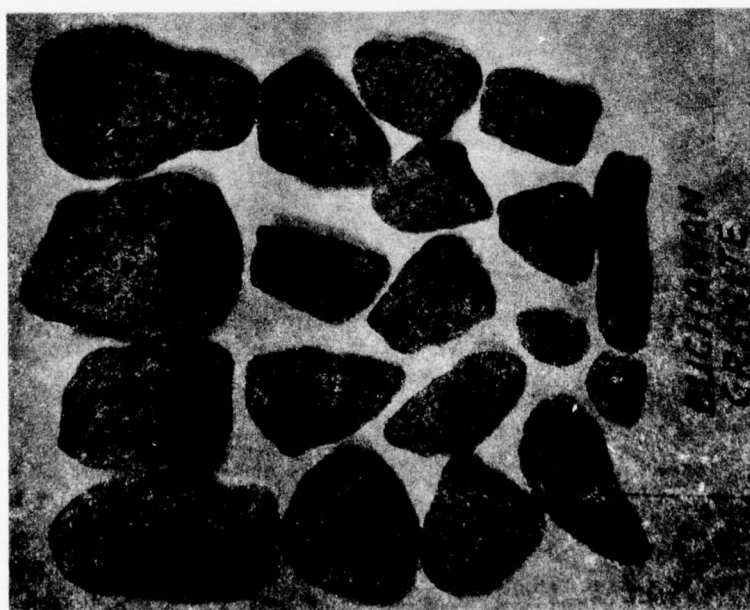
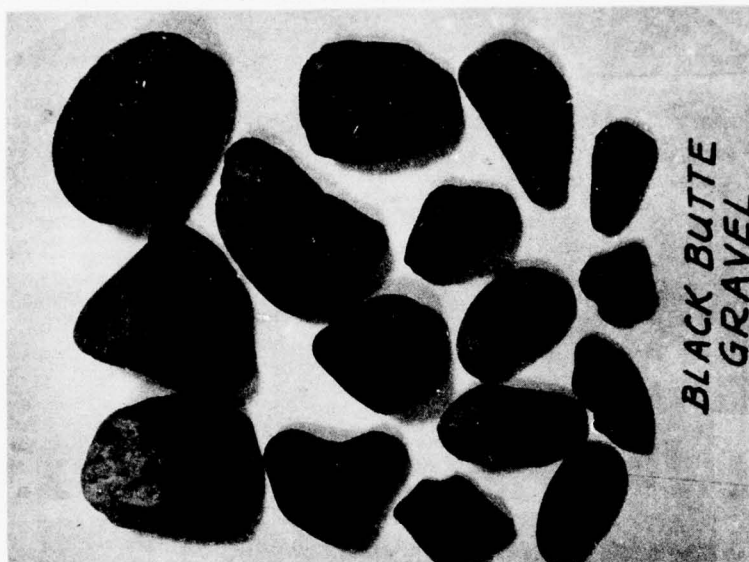


Fig. 5

#### TESTING PROCEDURES

15. Triaxial Compression. Tests were performed on specimens remolded to high density (95 to 100 RD) and low density (9 to 41 RD). After remolding, the specimens were saturated, isotropically consolidated and then loaded axially in a drained condition. Figure 6 shows the apparatus. A detailed description of the testing procedure is in Appendix B.

16. Consolidation. Tests were performed on both dry and saturated specimens in a 12-inch diameter, fixed-ring, steel consolidometer that accommodated a 10-inch high specimen (Fig. 7). The particles were placed into the ring in two layers and vibrated to maximum density. Axial loads were applied by a hydraulic fluid system. Each load remained on the specimens for at least 24 hours. After the final load, the specimen was unloaded incrementally.

17. Relative Density. Maximum and minimum densities were determined in a 12-inch diameter by 10-inch high cylinder. Vibration for maximum density was provided by a Syntron VP-240 vibratory table. Minimum density was achieved by placing the material in the cylinder without compactive effort.

18. Processing. The rock materials from the dams were crushed in the laboratory using an 8x10-inch jaw crusher for production of sizes larger than 1 inch, and a gyratory crusher for smaller sizes. A ball mill was used to produce sand sizes and fines. After crushing, the material was separated into six gravel sizes and four sand sizes using a trommel and sieve shaker, then washed and dried. Materials purchased



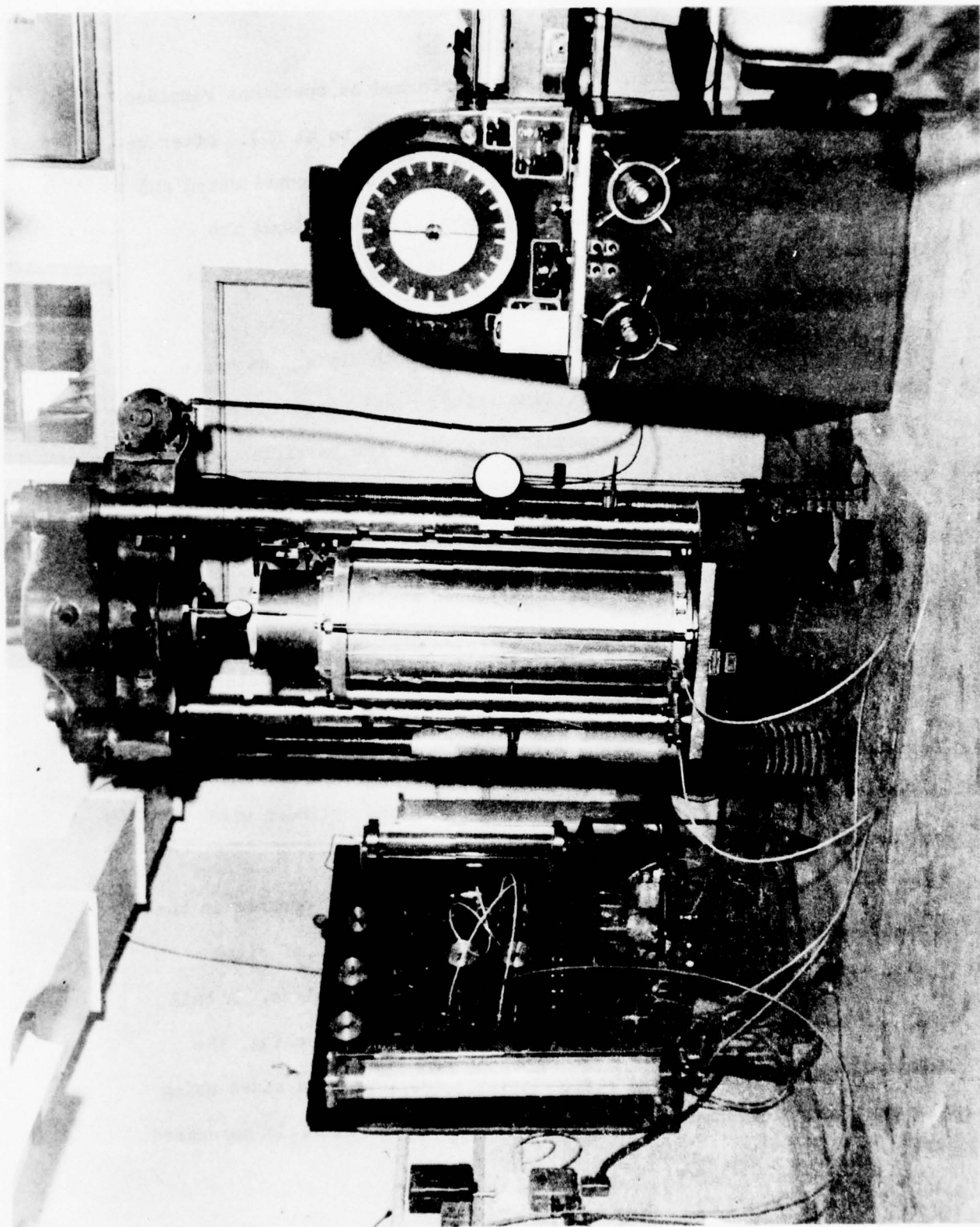
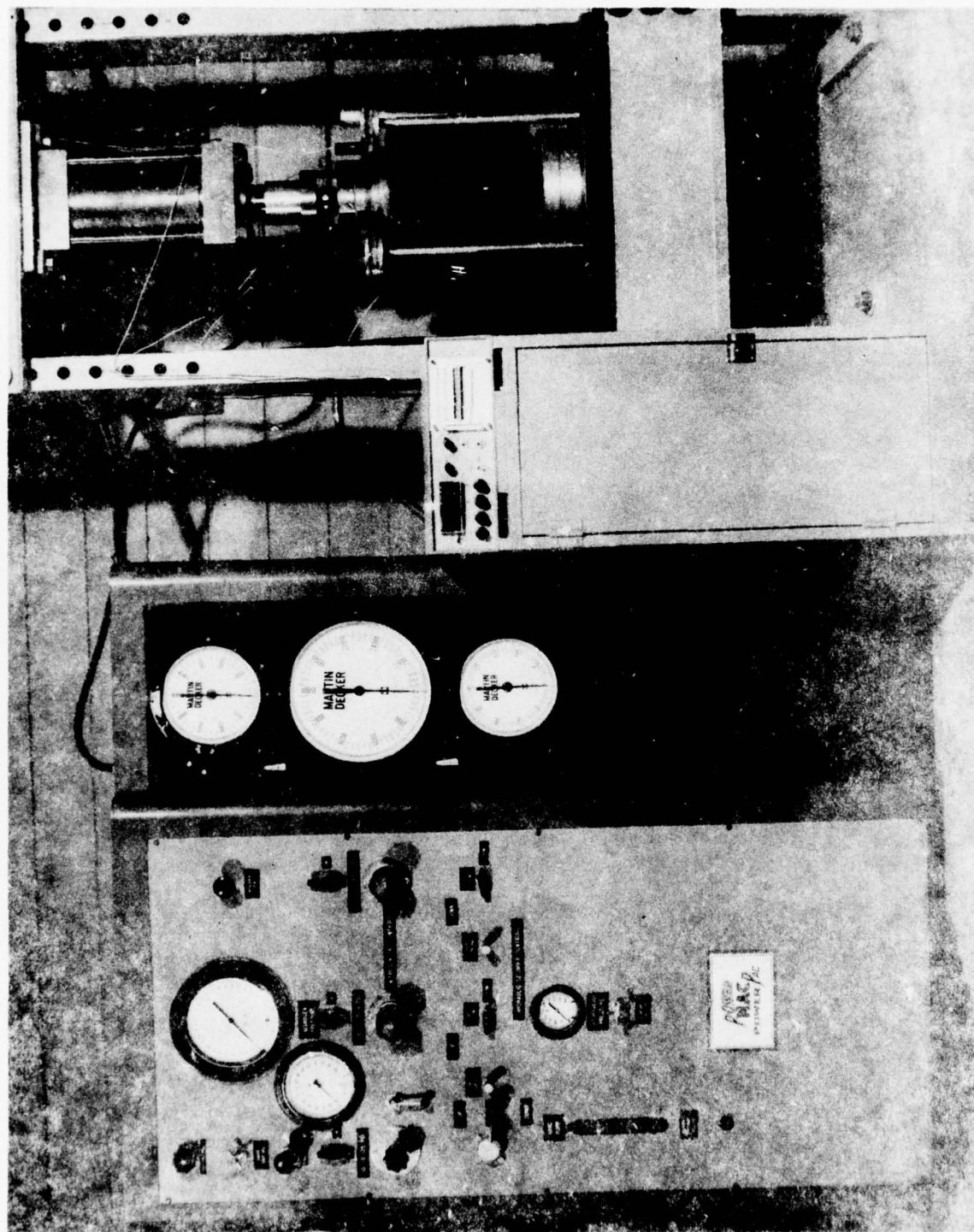


FIG. 6

12" DIAMETER TRIAXIAL SHEAR APPARATUS



12-INCH DIAMETER CONSOLIDOMETER

Fig. 7

from commercial sources were delivered in from six to eight sizes and were washed and sieved.

19. Tests for Physical Properties.

a. Sieve Analysis and Specific Gravity. Testing method conformed to the procedures described in Engineer Manual, EM-1110-2-1906, "Laboratory Soil Testing," 30 November 1970.

b. Abrasion Loss by Los Angeles Machine and Soundness of Aggregates by Use of Magnesium Sulphate. Test procedures conformed to methods CRD-C 117 and CRD-C 115, respectively, of the Waterways Experiment Station, Concrete Research Division, Corps of Engineers.

c. Compressive Strength. Two-inch diameter cores were drilled from large boulders of each rock type except Laurel sandstone, none being available. The ends of the specimens were ground parallel and perpendicular to the axis of the core. The specimens were soaked overnight then loaded to failure at a rate of 2,000 to 3,000 psi per minute.

d. Scratch Hardness, Moh's Scale. Relative hardness was determined by scratching it with substances of known hardness.

e. Shape Factor (1) is the ratio of the volume of a sphere having a diameter equal to a sieve size to the volume of an average particle passing that sieve. Values were determined from the weighted average of six sieve fractions from 3 inches down to No. 4. A description of the procedure is in Appendix B.

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(1) Raul J. Marsal, "Strength and Deformation Characteristics of Rockfill," Instituto de Ingenieria, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.



20. Particle Breakage. After each triaxial test, the material was sieved for comparison with the initial gradation. Establishment of a parameter to evaluate particle breakage has not yet been established. For this report, the increase in percent passing the  $D_{10}$  size of the initial gradation was designated as the parameter for particle breakage.

#### TEST RESULTS

21. Summary. The purpose of this study was to correlate properties of rockfill materials with shear and consolidation characteristics. There was good correlation of shear strength with abrasion loss, hardness, and compressive strength. Strength was proportional to compressive strength and hardness and inversely proportional to abrasion loss. There was good correlation of shape factor and compressive strength with volumetric and axial strain. Materials with high shape factor and compressive strength exhibited lower strain at failure. For consolidation, strain increased with increasing void ratio and decreasing compressive strength and shape factor. For all materials, greater strain occurred in the saturated than in the dry condition. Dry density was proportional to shape factor and specific gravity.

#### 22. Physical Properties.

a. Abrasion Loss. New Hogan Metavolcanic and Napa basalt values of 13 and 15 percent loss were the lowest of the eight materials (Table 1). Carters quartzite and Cougar basalt values of 26 and 21 also indicated hard fresh materials. Sonora dolomite loss of 42 percent was typical for this type of rock and did not indicate weathering. Laurel sandstone 86 percent loss was due to weak cementation. Buchanan granite value of 69 percent was normal for this type of weathered rock.



TABLE 1

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Rock	Abrasion Loss, %		Soundness by			Compressive Strength psi	Scratch Hardness Moh's Scale	Shape Factor Fv
	Grading A	Grading B	Coarse	Fine	Mg SO <sub>4</sub> . Loss, % Average			
Napa Basalt	15	13	2	11	3	30,000	6	0.73
New Hogan Dam Metavolcanic	13	12	1	10	2	20,000	5½ - 6	0.62
Carters Dam Quartzite	26	25	1	10	2	30,000	5½ - 6	0.65
Cougar Dam Basalt	21	21	6	42	10	17,000	6	0.54
Sonora Dolomite	42	47	2	43	7	24,000	5	0.66
Buchanan Dam Granite	69	93	25	40	27	*10,000	4	0.64
Laurel Dam Sandstone	86	99	95	54	91	-	4½	0.59
Black Butte Gravel	22	21	5	23	7	-	-	0.70

For the harder rocks, the results for the A ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch maximum size) and B ( $3/4$ -inch maximum size) gradations of each material were similar. Greater loss for Laurel sandstone and Buchanan granite for the B gradation indicated that particles smaller than  $3/4$  inch were primarily the product of crushing the softest particles of each type. During crushing, the softest rocks broke into the smallest particles.

b. Compressive Strength. The highest strength values (Table 1) were for Napa basalt and Carters quartzite. The New Hogan metavolcanic value was the average of three textural types of this material. Strengths varied from 33,000 psi for the coarse-grained to 13,000 psi for the fine-grained. Cougar basalt value was low probably because of the fine vesicles throughout the sample. The Buchanan granite core was less weathered than the average material used for all other tests.

c. Hardness. The hardness of all fresh materials was consistent with values shown in mineral tables (2) for the predominant minerals in the rocks tested. The low values for Buchanan granite and Laurel sandstone were indications of the degree of weathering and cementation. The values of 4, 5, and 6 (Table 1) are equivalent to the hardness of fluorite, apatite and feldspar on Moh's scale.

d. Soundness by Magnesium Sulphate. For the soundest materials, Napa basalt, New Hogan metavolcanic and Carters quartzite, loss values for both the coarse and fine aggregates were low. Cougar basalt and Sonora dolomite coarse aggregate values were low, but since the fine

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(2) Arthur S. Eakle, Mineral Tables, 2nd Edition, New York, John Wiley, 1923.

aggregate losses were higher, this indicated that finer sizes may be somewhat weathered. Except for Laurel sandstone and Buchanan granite, weighted average values for each material were similar. Because of this similarity the test was not considered to be particularly valuable for the purpose of this report.

e. Shape Factor. In order to interpret the test values, examples of limiting values are illustrated since this is not a standard test. A sphere that barely passed a particular screen would have a value of 1. Any particle having a volume equal to that sphere would also be 1. A long blocky-shaped particle could have a value greater than 1. A circular, very thin particle that was barely retained on the next smaller screen size would have a value of about 0.002 (assuming that the smaller screen size was one-half of the larger screen size). Results (Table 1) confirmed a visual estimate of the materials except for Black Butte gravel and Cougar basalt. It was anticipated that the gravel would have the highest value because the particles were more rounded than the crushed rocks. Water in the vesicles of Cougar basalt caused a higher than normal saturated surface-dry water content which affected the volume determination and resulted in a low value. Edges and corners of the soft rocks were rounded during the sieving operation which resulted in higher shape factors than would be obtained from unsieved material. Figure 8 shows higher shape factor values for one-inch size and larger. Lower values for smaller sizes are mainly due to the great number of angular fragments resulting from crushing.

f. Specific Gravity and Absorption. Specific gravity results (Table 2) are consistent with the mineral composition of the materials. The highest absorptions and lowest bulk specific gravities were for Laurel sandstone and Cougar basalt.



2 1/2 X 2 1/2 INCHES PER  
 1/2 INCHES PER

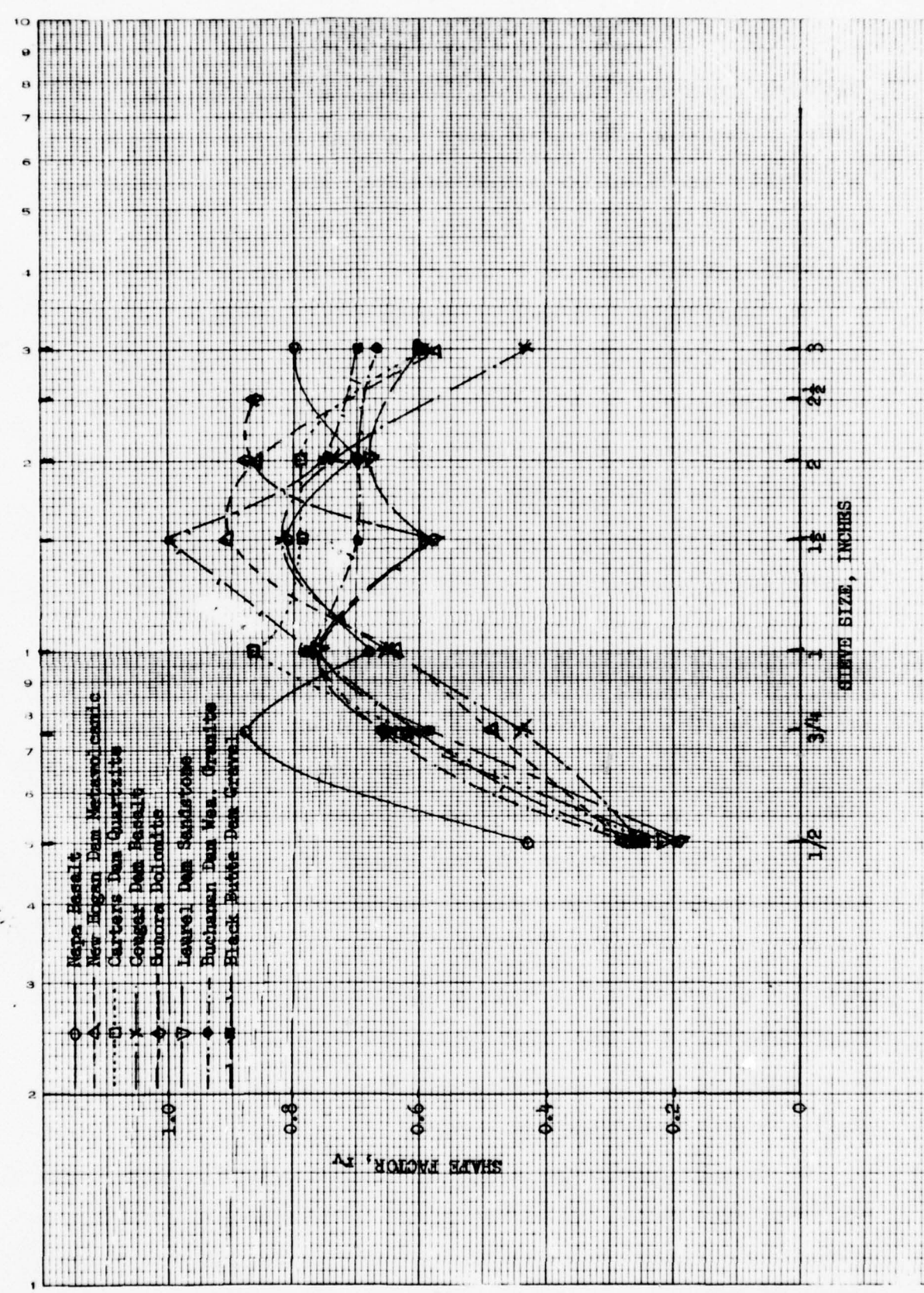


FIG 8

TABLE 2

## SPECIFIC GRAVITY &amp; ABSORPTION

Rock	Specific Gravity			Absorp- tion $\frac{\%}{p}$
	+No. 4		-No. 4	
	Bulk	Appar.	Solids	
Napa Basalt	2.82	2.87	2.85	0.8
New Hogan Dam Metabotcanic	2.84	2.85	2.82	0.4
Carters Dam Quartzite	2.69	2.73	2.72	0.4
Cougar Dam Basalt	2.60	2.74	2.75	1.9
Sonora Dolomite	2.83	2.86	2.82	0.6
Buchanan Dam Granite	2.62	2.69	2.69	0.9
Laurel Dam Sandstone	2.29	2.65	2.64	3.9
Black Butte Gravel	2.69	2.75	2.70	0.9

23. Classification of Materials. On the basis of physical properties and petrographic analysis, the rockfill materials were classified as follows:

<u>Fresh &amp; Hard</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Soft or Weathered</u>
Napa basalt	Sonora dolomite	Laurel sandstone
Carters quartzite		Buchanan granite
New Hogan metavolcanic		
Cougar basalt		

Sonora dolomite was considered an intermediate material since it exhibited characteristics of both groups. Cougar basalt contained many vesicular pieces and some of the results, particularly shape factor, absorption, and soundness, were apparently influenced by the presence of the vesicles. This material was classified as fresh and hard since there was no visual evidence of weathering.

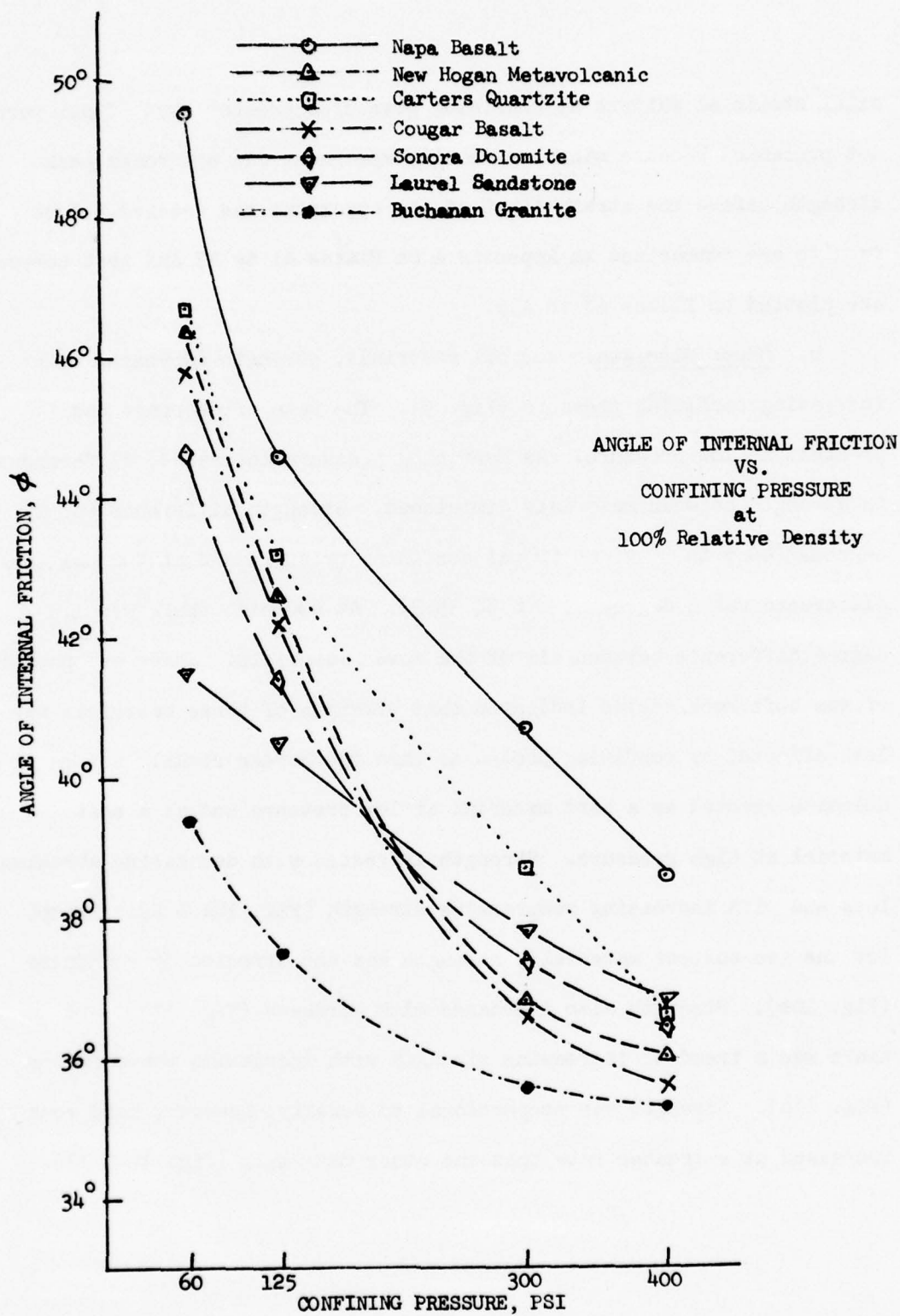
24. Triaxial Compression Tests.

a. General. The angle of internal friction is defined as the angle formed by a line through the origin and tangent to the Mohr circle. Since the strength of granular materials varied with density, test results were normalized by interpolation at 100 percent relative density except when the variable of density was illustrated. Figures which illustrated physical property results were plotted for the lowest and highest confining pressures, 60 and 400 psi. Since triaxial test results were normalized, the only variable was the variety of material. A plot of

axial strain at failure at confining pressures greater than 60 psi were not presented because many low-density specimens did not reach peak strength before the strain limit of the apparatus was reached. Test results are summarized in Appendix A on Plates A1 to A7 and test curves are plotted on Plates A8 to A35.

b. Shear Strength. For all materials, strength decreased with increasing confining pressure (Fig. 9). The rate of decrease was greatest at low pressure. As confining pressure increased, differences in strength between materials diminished. Strength difference was 10 degrees (49.5 to 39.4) at 60 psi confining pressure and at 400 psi the difference was 3 degrees (38.6 to 35.3). At 400 psi, there was 1.5 degree difference between six of the seven materials. Shape and position of the soft rock curves indicated that strength of these materials was less affected by confining pressures than the harder rocks. Sonora dolomite reacted as a hard material at low pressure and as a soft material at high pressure. Strength increased with decreasing abrasion loss and with increasing compressive strength (Fig. 10a & b). Except for the two softest materials, strength was not affected by soundness (Fig. 10c). Strength also increased with hardness (Fig. 11a), and there was a trend of increasing strength with increasing shape factor (Fig. 11b). Strength was proportional to density; however, hard rock increased at a greater rate than the other materials (Fig. 12 & 13).







# ANGLE OF INTERNAL FRICTION VS.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

of

60 and 400 psi Confining Pressure  
Specimens at 100% RD

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- Buchanan Granite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone

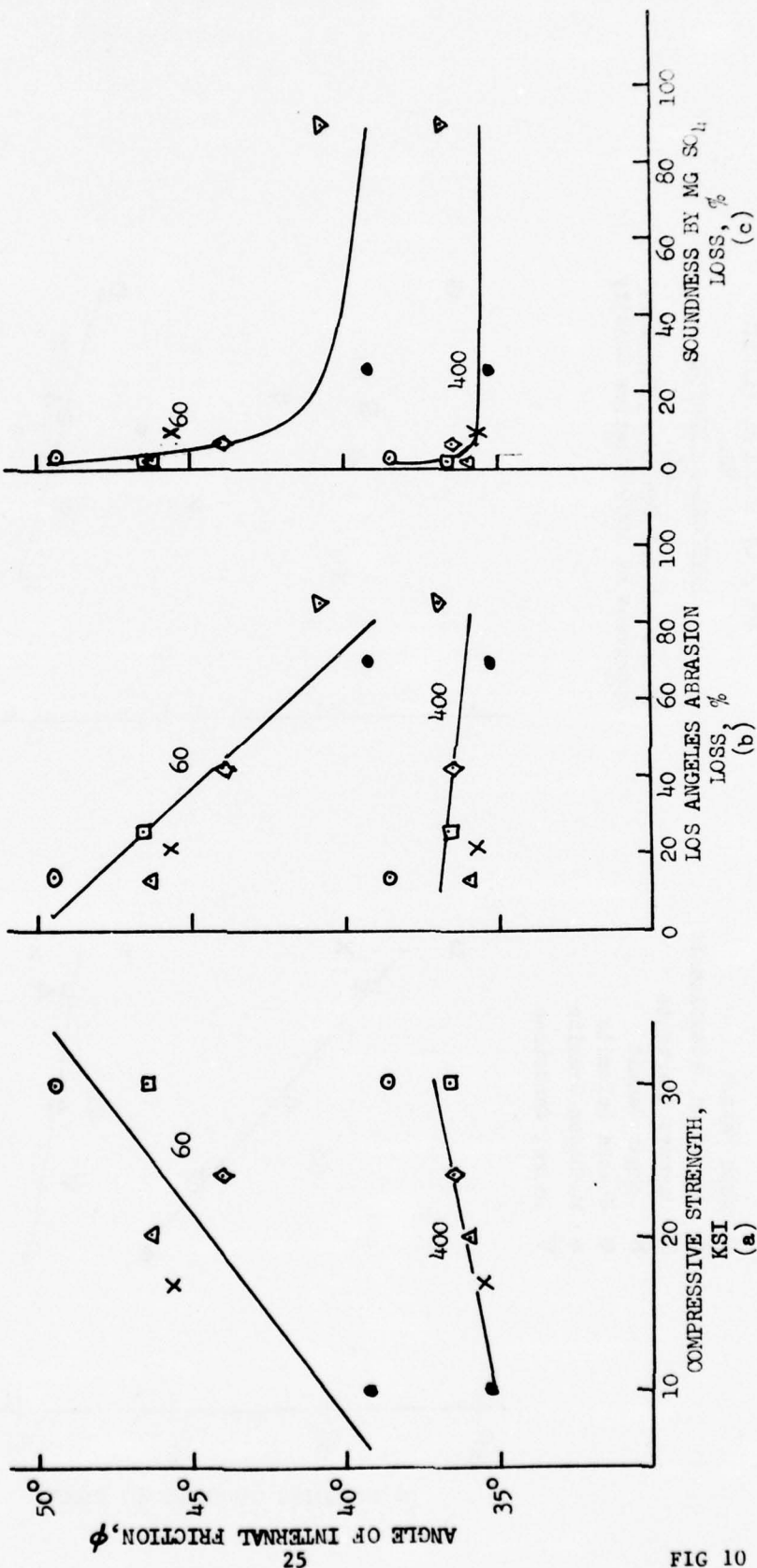
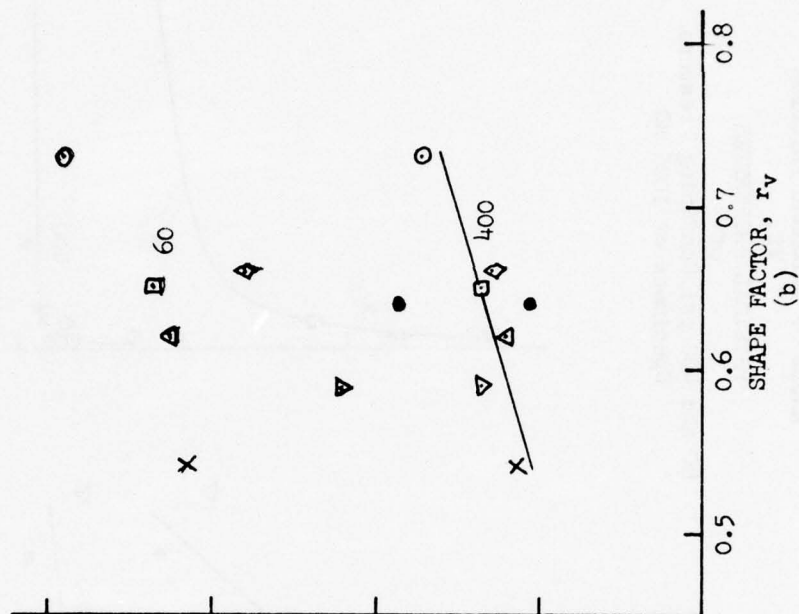
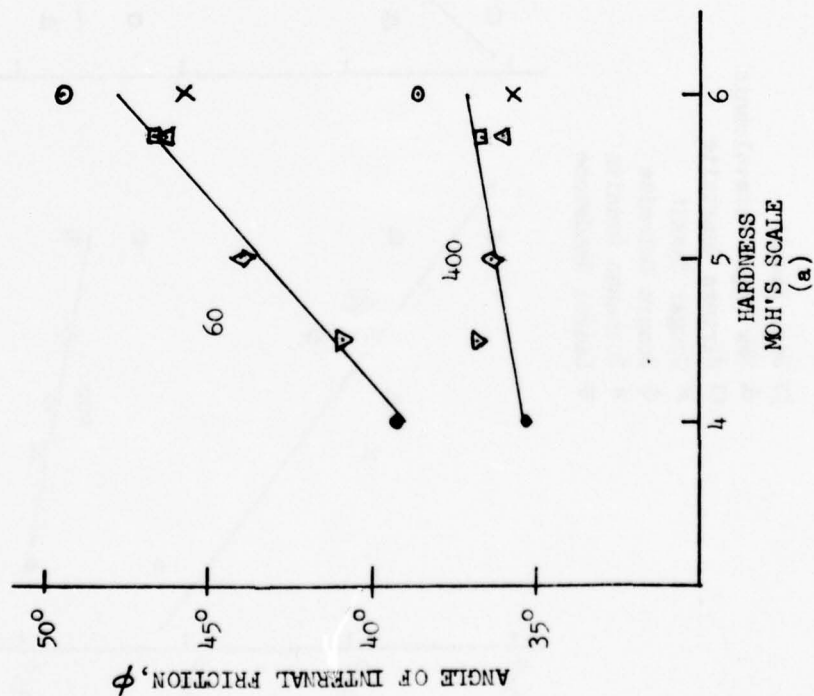
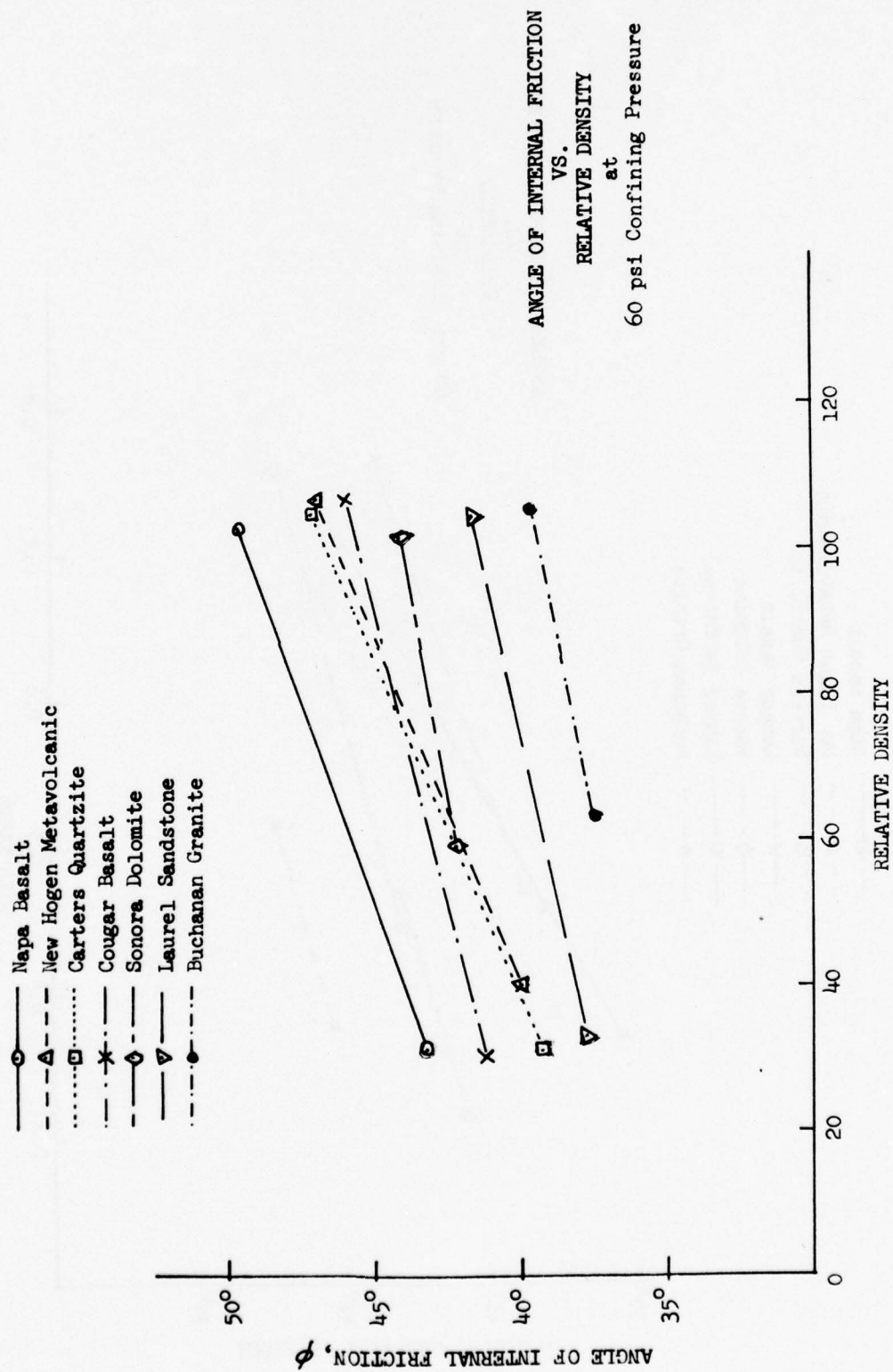


FIG 10

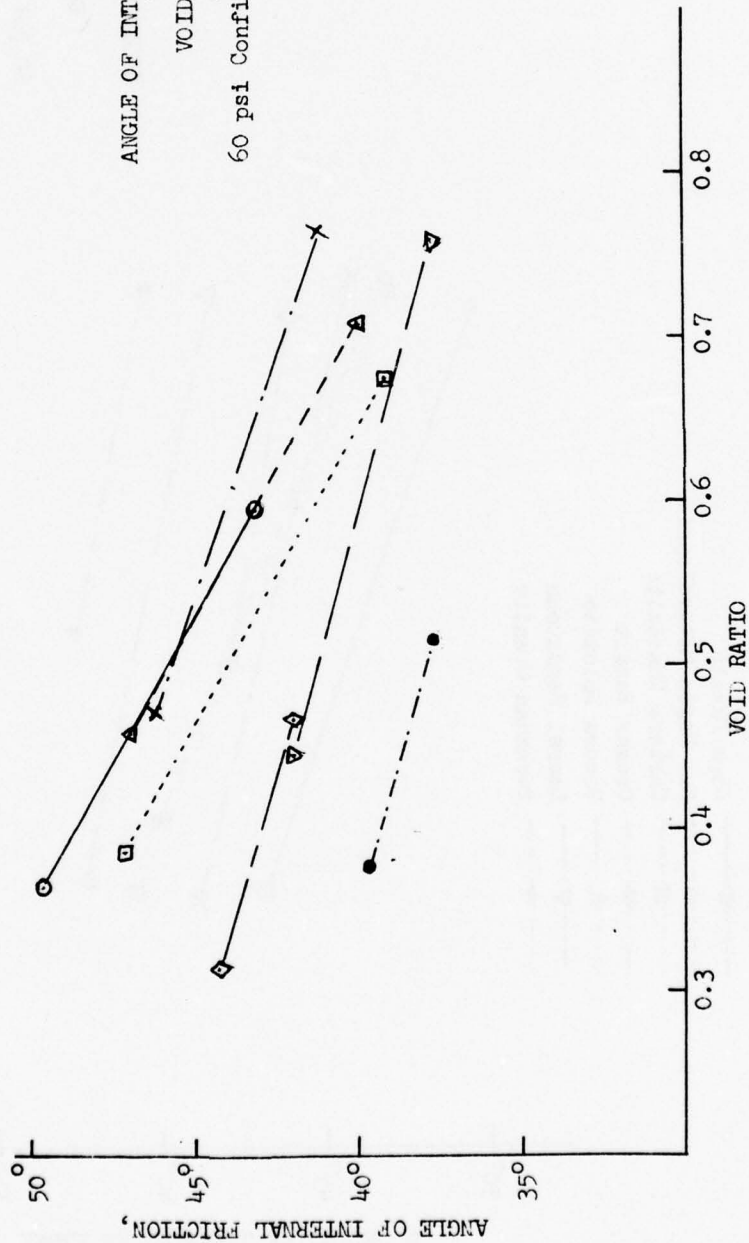
ANGLE OF INTERNAL FRICTION  
VS.  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES  
of  
60 and 400 psi Confining Pressure  
Specimens at 100% Relative Density

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- Buchanan Granite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone





—○— Napa Basalt  
 - - - Δ - - - New Hogan Metavolcanic  
 ····· □ ····· Carters Quartzite  
 ····· × ····· Cougar Basalt  
 —◇— Sonora Dolomite  
 —▽— Laurel Sandstone  
 - - - ● - - - Buchanan Granite





c. Isotropic Consolidation. Consolidation was evaluated by the equation:

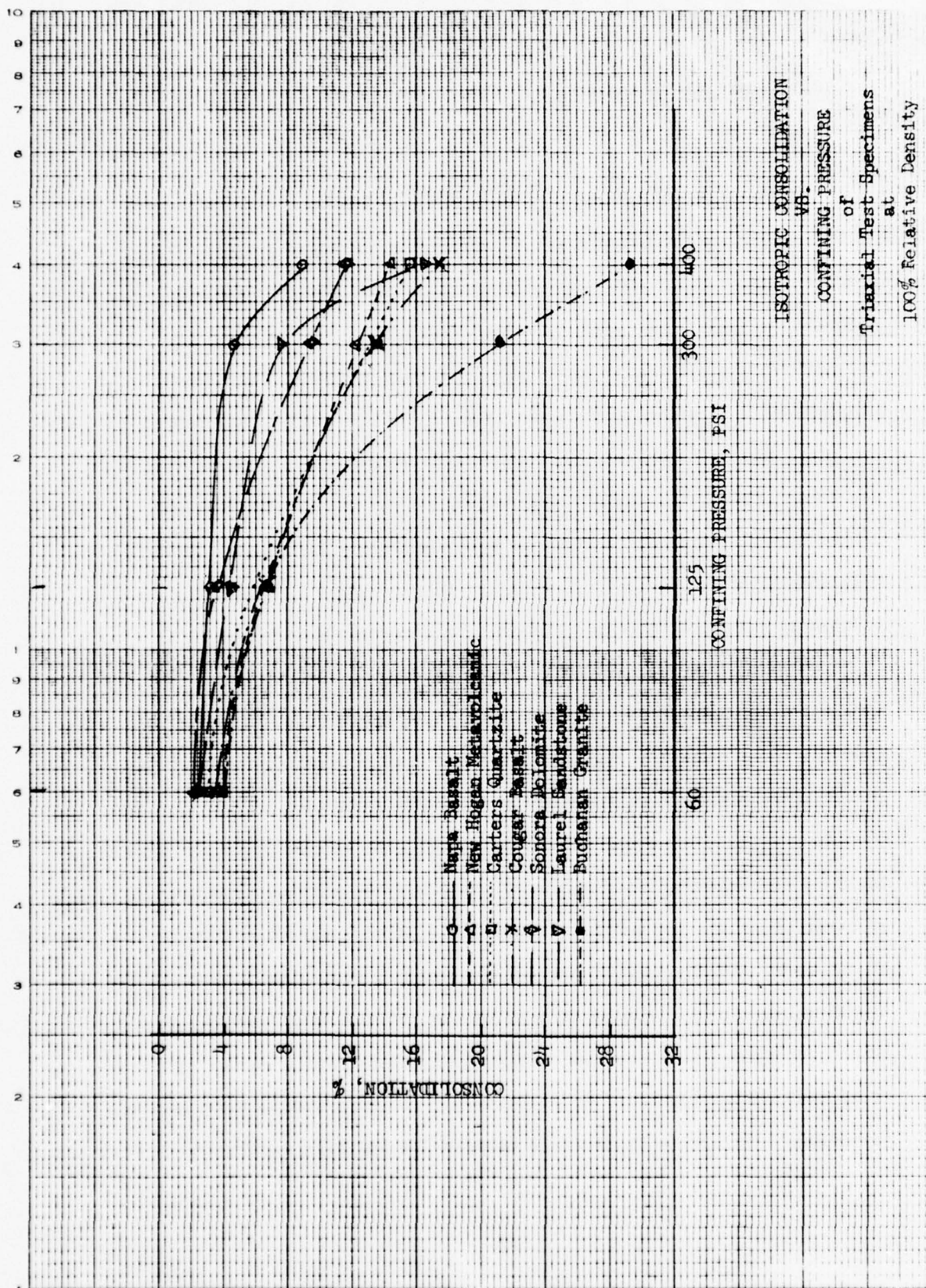
$$\text{Percent Consolidation} = \frac{\text{Volume Change}}{\text{Original Volume}} \times 100$$

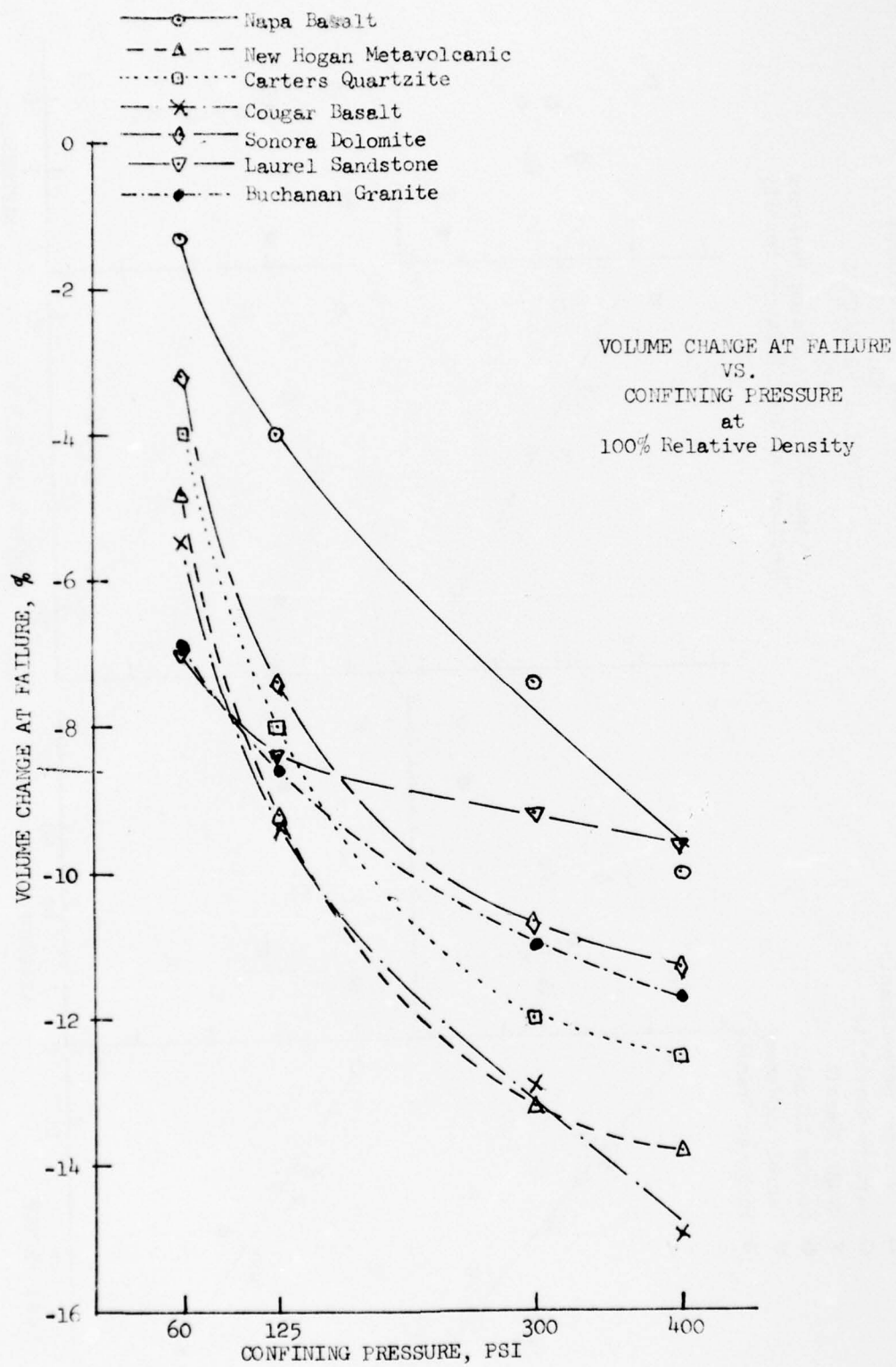
At 400 psi, greatest consolidation occurred on Buchanan granite, 29.3 percent (Fig. 14). Least compression was on Napa basalt and Sonora dolomite, 8.8 and 11.6 percent, respectively.

d. Volumetric Strain at Failure. Volume change at failure was proportional to confining pressure (Fig. 15). For soft rocks, Laurel sandstone and Buchanan granite, the rate decreased sharply at 125 psi; for harder rocks, the change occurred at 300 psi except for Napa and Cougar basalts which did not decrease appreciably. Figure 16 shows the relationship with physical properties. Volume change appeared to be related to particle shape and possibly to compressive strength.

e. Axial Strain at Failure. Axial strain at failure was influenced by shape factor and compressive strength (Fig. 17a & c). In general, axial strain at failure increased with confining pressure. Results are tabulated in the summary tables (Appendix A).

f. Particle Breakage. Breakage of only the largest particle size could be evaluated by examination of the gradation curves. Breakage of other sizes was impossible to assess because of carry-over from the screens. At the highest confining pressure, the 2-inch rock size of all materials was reduced from 25 percent of the total sample before testing to from 2 to 12 percent after testing. Gradation curves of all samples after testing are contained in Appendix A. For hard rocks, there was no significant difference in breakage between low and high density specimens;





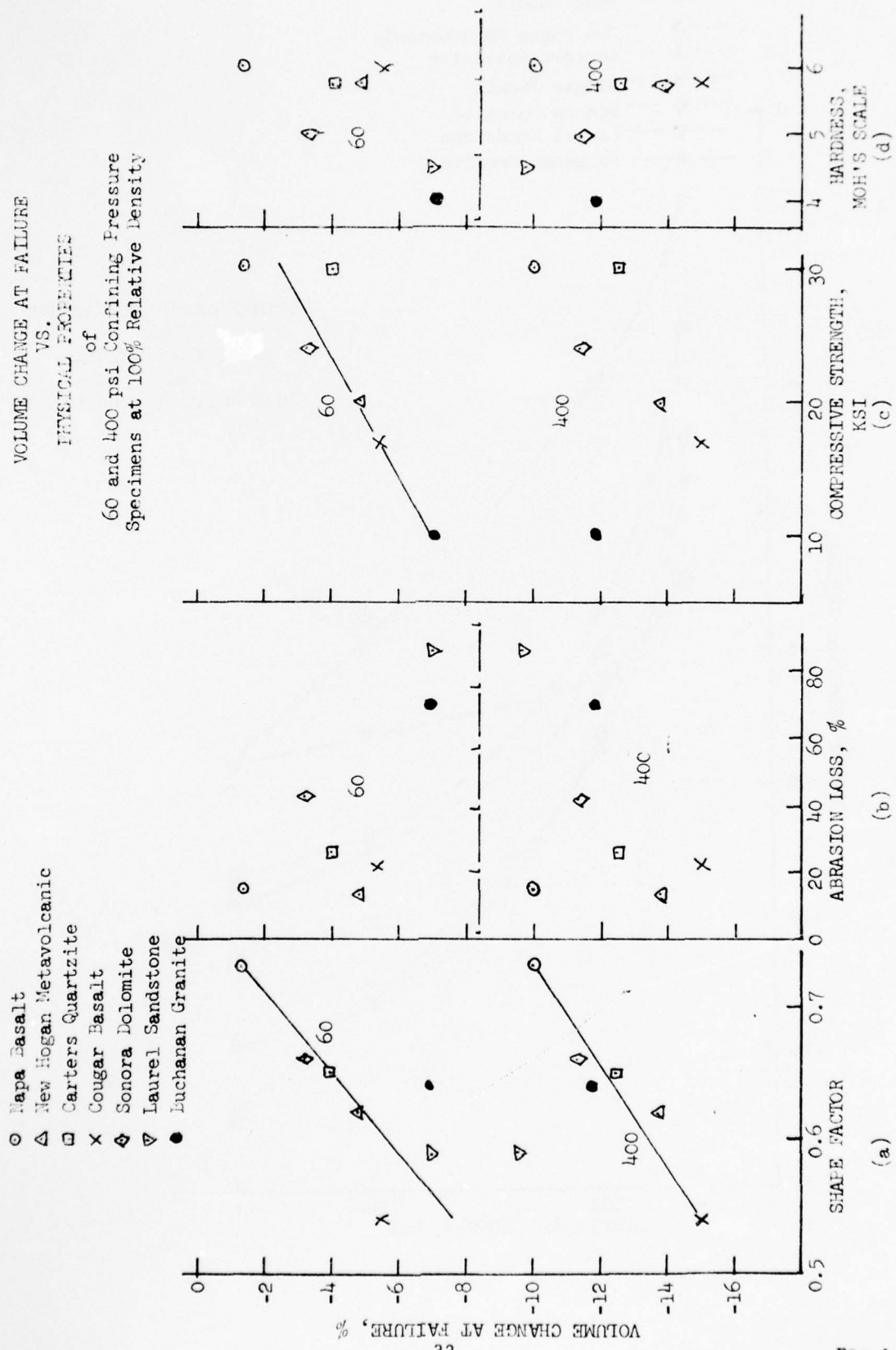
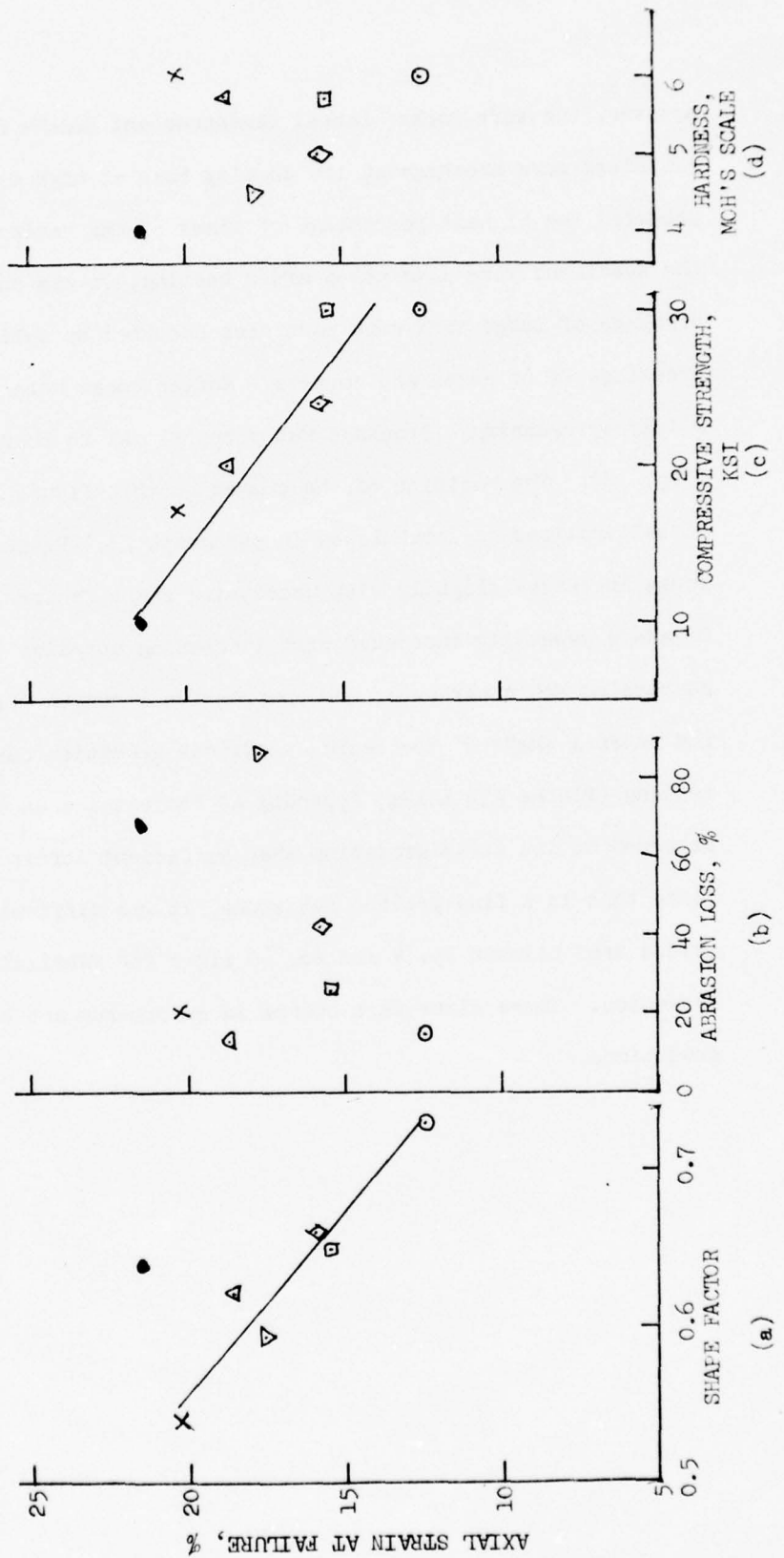


FIG 16

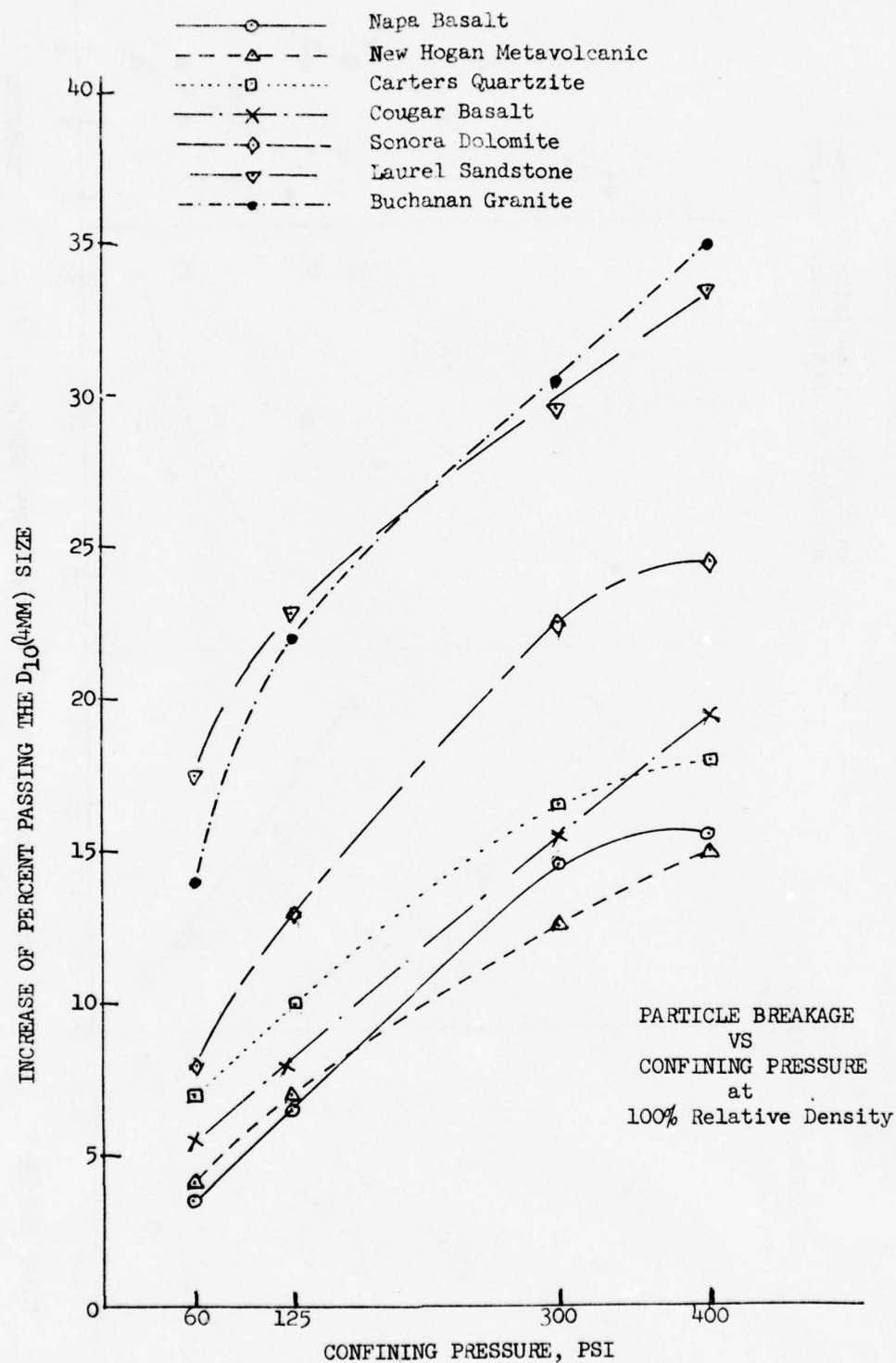


AXIAL STRAIN AT FAILURE  
VS.  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES  
of  
60 psi Confining Pressure  
Specimens at 100% RD

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone
- Buchanan Granite

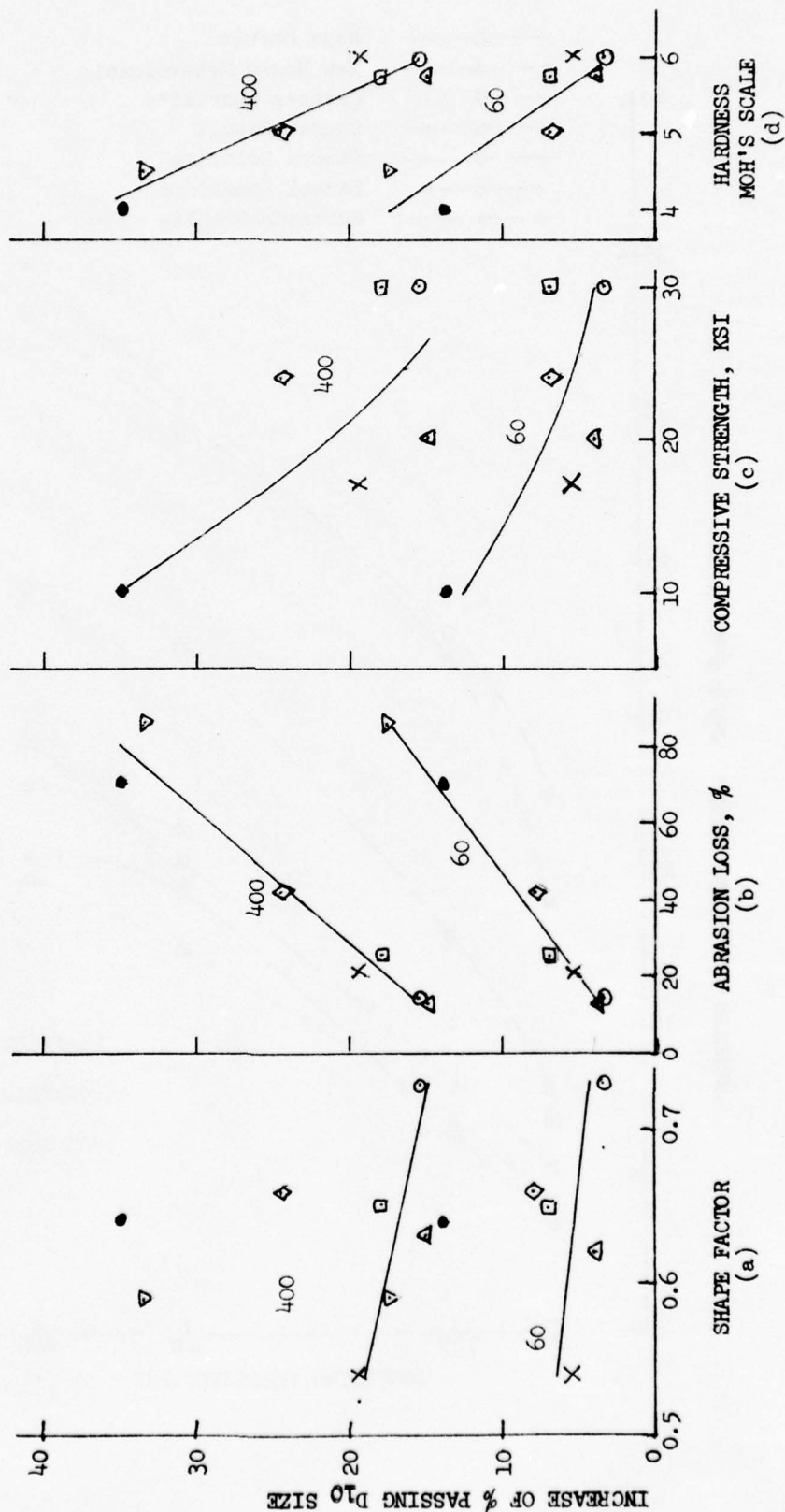


however, the soft rocks, Laurel sandstone and Sonora dolomite exhibited more breakage at low density than at high density. Dolomite produced the highest percentage of fines of the entire study. When the specimens were dismantled after testing, it was observed that breakage of large hard rock particles occurred by splitting and breaking-off of edges and corners. Softer rocks were reduced in size mainly by crushing. Breakage was proportional to confining pressure (Fig. 18). The position of the curves on this figure confirm the classifications as established in paragraph 23. Breakage of harder rocks increased slightly with decreasing shape factor (Fig. 19a). Breakage generally increased with increasing abrasion loss, and decreasing Moh's hardness and compressive strength (Fig. 19b, c, & d). The unusual shape of the Laurel sandstone gradation curves after testing (Plates A30 & A31, Appendix A) indicated that the sand sizes returned to its field gradation when sufficient stress was applied. Since this is a fine-grained sandstone, it was difficult to obtain the needed sand between No. 4 and No. 60 sizes for fabricating the desired gradation. These sizes were scarce in quarry-run and crusher-run gradations.



PARTICLE BREAKAGE  
VS.  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES  
of  
60 and 400 psi Confining Pressure,  
Specimens at 100% Relative Density

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone
- Buchanan Granite





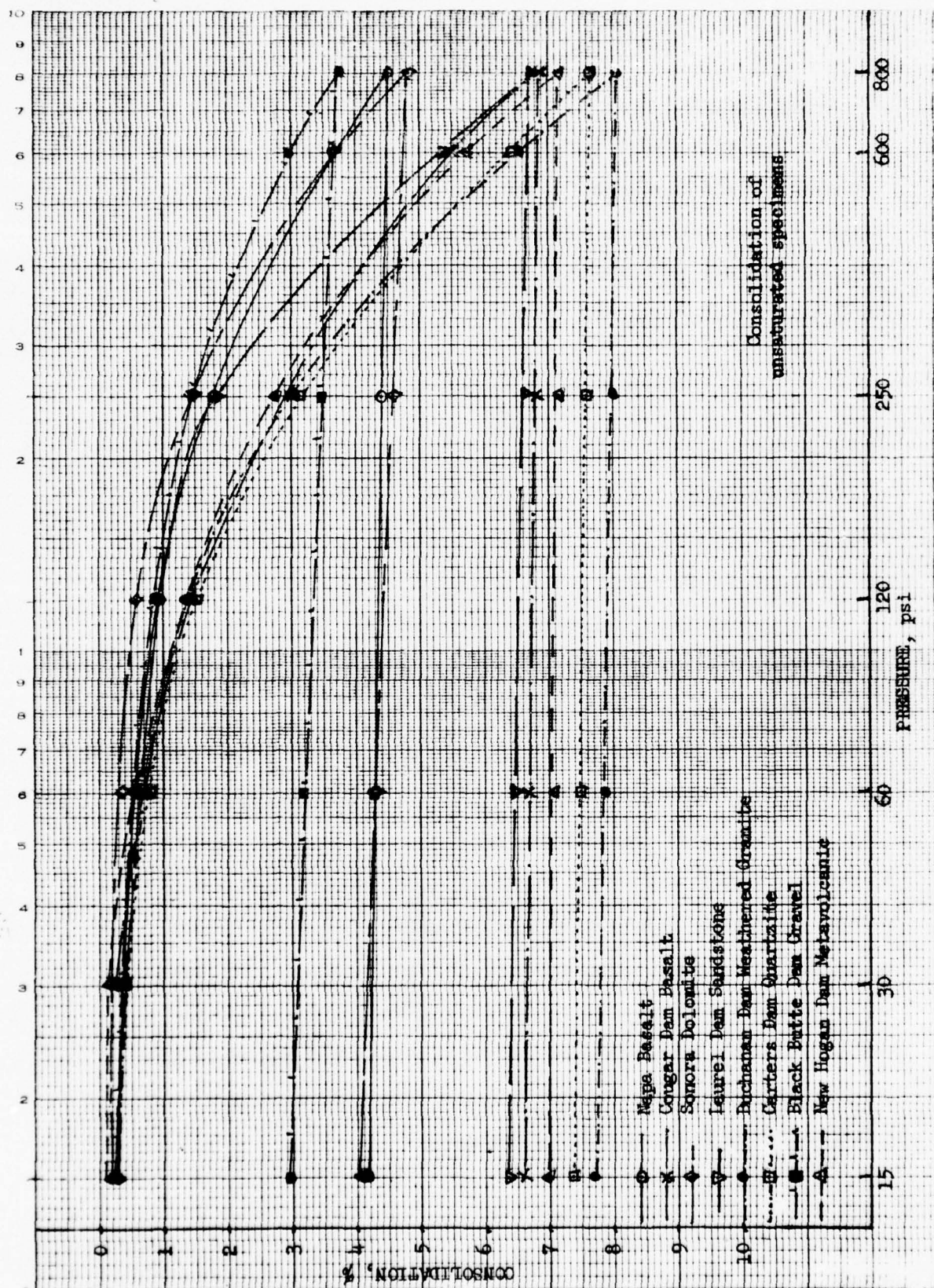
## 25. Consolidation

a. General. Consolidation results were evaluated by percent consolidation and compression index. Percent consolidation was defined as vertical deformation divided by initial specimen height. Compression index was calculated from the void ratio-pressure curves using the following equation:

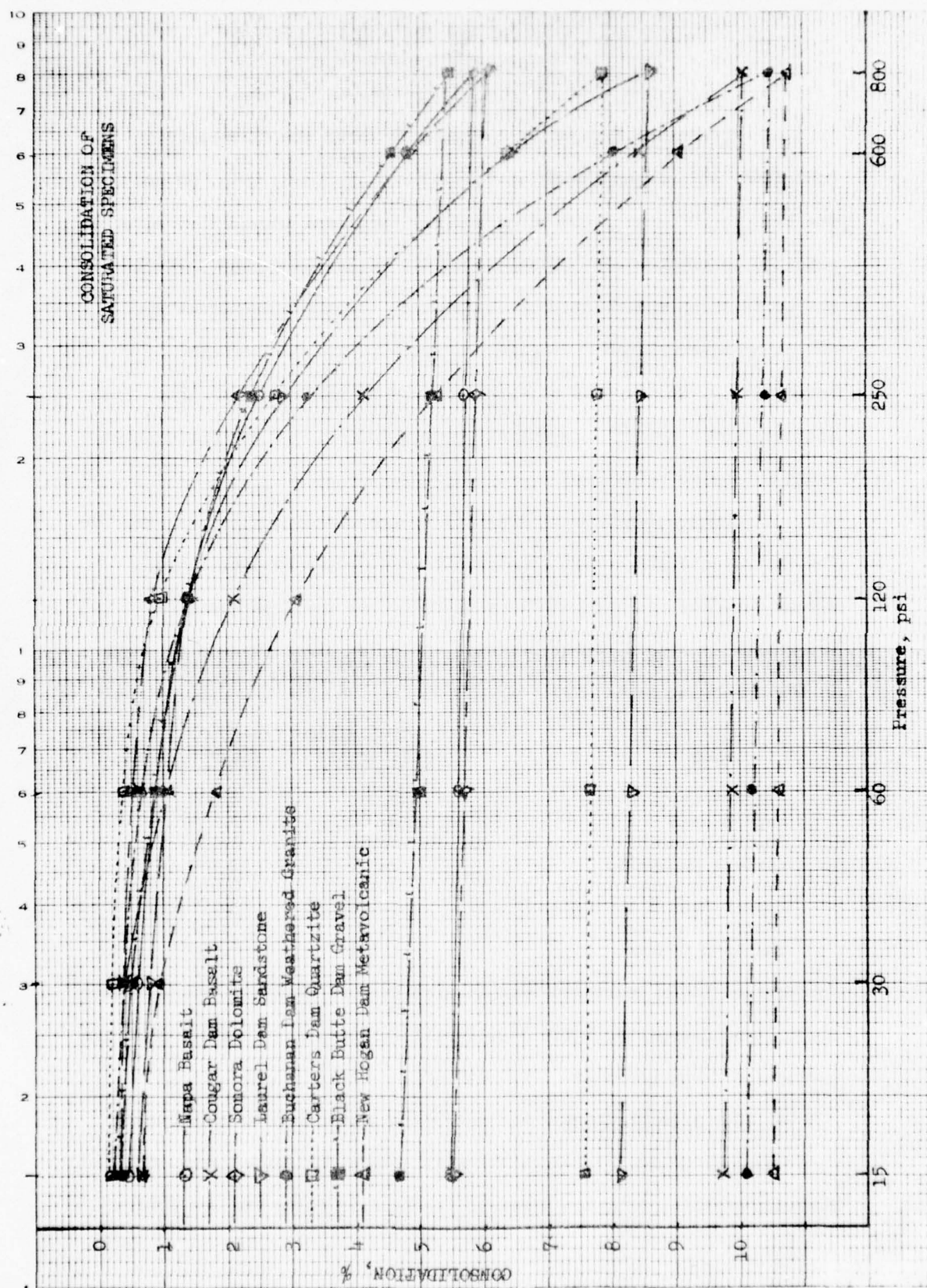
$$C_c = \frac{e_1 - e_2}{\log_{10} p_2 - \log_{10} p_1}$$

Since the void ratio-pressure curves did not develop a straight line at higher pressures, the 250 and 800 psi pressures were used to calculate compression index. Void ratio-pressure plots and summary of test data are in Appendix A.

b. Consolidation. Greatest percent consolidation of the specimens tested in the dry condition at 800 psi was for Buchanan Granite and Carters Quartzite, 7.7 and 8.1 percent (Fig. 20). For saturated specimens, New Hogan metavolcanic, Buchanan granite and Cougar basalt exhibited the greatest consolidation, 10.7, 10.5, and 10.1 percent (Fig. 21). The least consolidation for both conditions were Napa basalt, Black Butte gravel, and Sonora dolomite, 4 to 5 percent dry and 5 to 6 percent saturated. Slopes of rebound curves were quite flat for all materials. For harder rocks, expansion between the final load, 800 psi, and the seating load was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent for both saturated and dry tests. Soft rock specimens expanded slightly more than the hard rocks. For Black Butte gravel and Sonora dolomite, two of the materials which consolidated the least, rebound of one percent occurred.



SEMILOGARITHMIC  
2 CYCLES X 20 DIVISIONS PER INCH





c. Effects of Inundation. Figure 22 shows the difference in consolidation between the saturated and dry specimens (Fig. 20 and 21). The difference between saturated and dry specimens showed that saturation resulted in greater consolidation for all materials except Carters quartzite which was relatively unaffected. Greatest increases were for New Hogan metavolcanic and Cougar basalt, 3.5 and 3.2 percent, respectively, an increase of approximately 50 percent. Smallest difference was for Carters quartzite, 0.2 percent. These differences could not be correlated with physical properties.

d. Compression Index. Greatest compression index values were for the saturated tests on Buchanan granite and Cougar basalt. Lowest values were for unsaturated Black Butte gravel and Napa basalt. Saturation increased the compression index for all materials as shown in the following table:

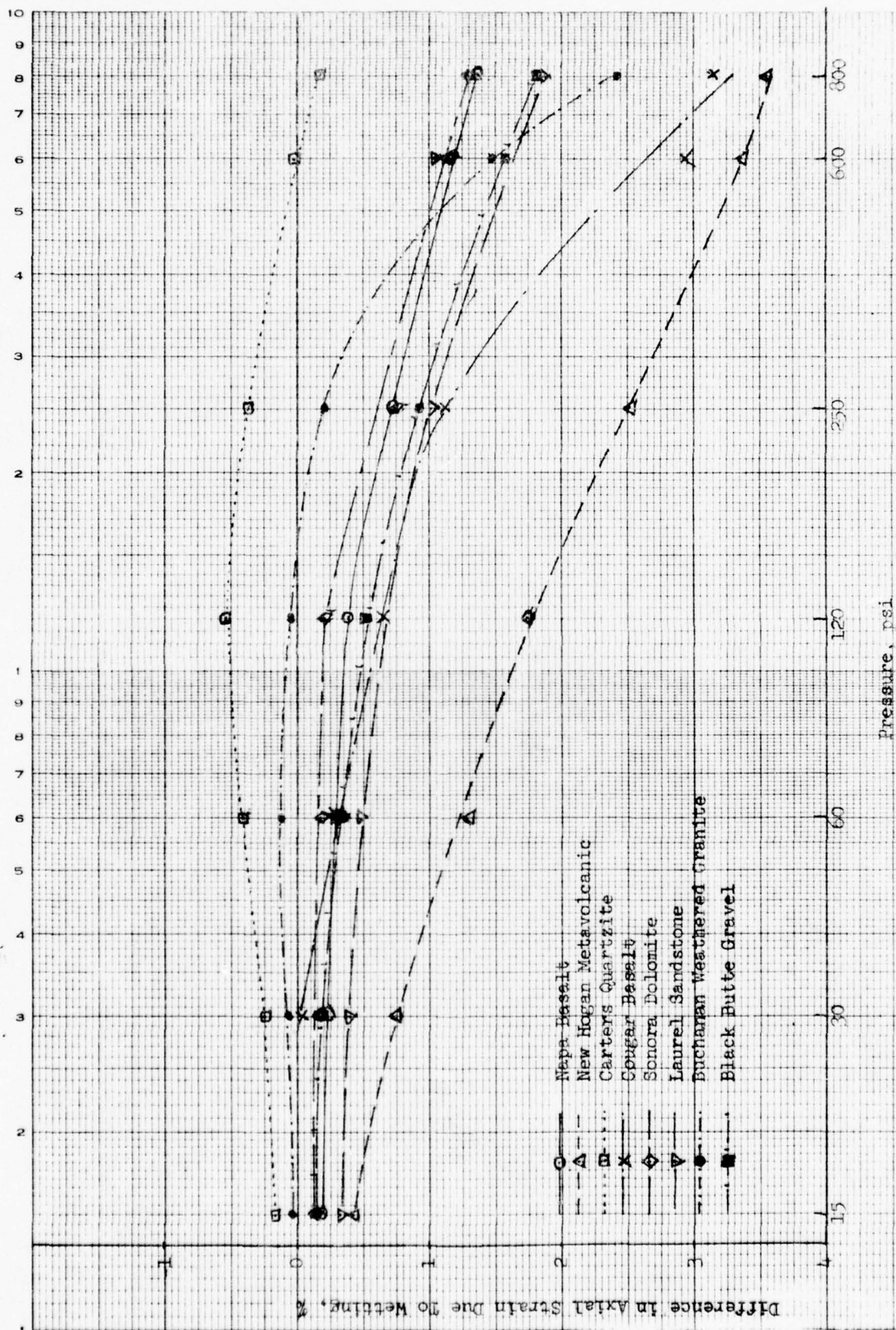
Rock	Compression Index, $C_c$	
	Unsaturated	Saturated
Black Butte Gravel	0.058	0.082
Napa Basalt	0.063	0.092
Sonora Dolomite	0.090	0.104
Carters Quartzite	0.130	0.144
New Hogan Metavolcanic	0.134	0.163
Cougar Basalt	0.119	0.178
Laurel Sandstone	0.144	0.162
Buchanan Granite	0.141	0.204

Compression index decreased with increasing compressive strength, shape factor, and decreasing initial void ratio (Fig. 23). Abrasion loss and hardness did not correlate (Fig. 24).

e. Particle Breakage. All materials broke down to some degree under axial loading. Breakage was most severe for Laurel sandstone and Buchanan granite, but, the greatest increase in fines was for Sonora



SEMI-LOGARITHMIC  
2 CYCLES X 20 DIVISIONS PER INCH



COMPRESSION INDEX  
VS.  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES  
of  
Saturated Consolidation Specimens

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone
- Buchanan Granite
- Black Butte Gravel

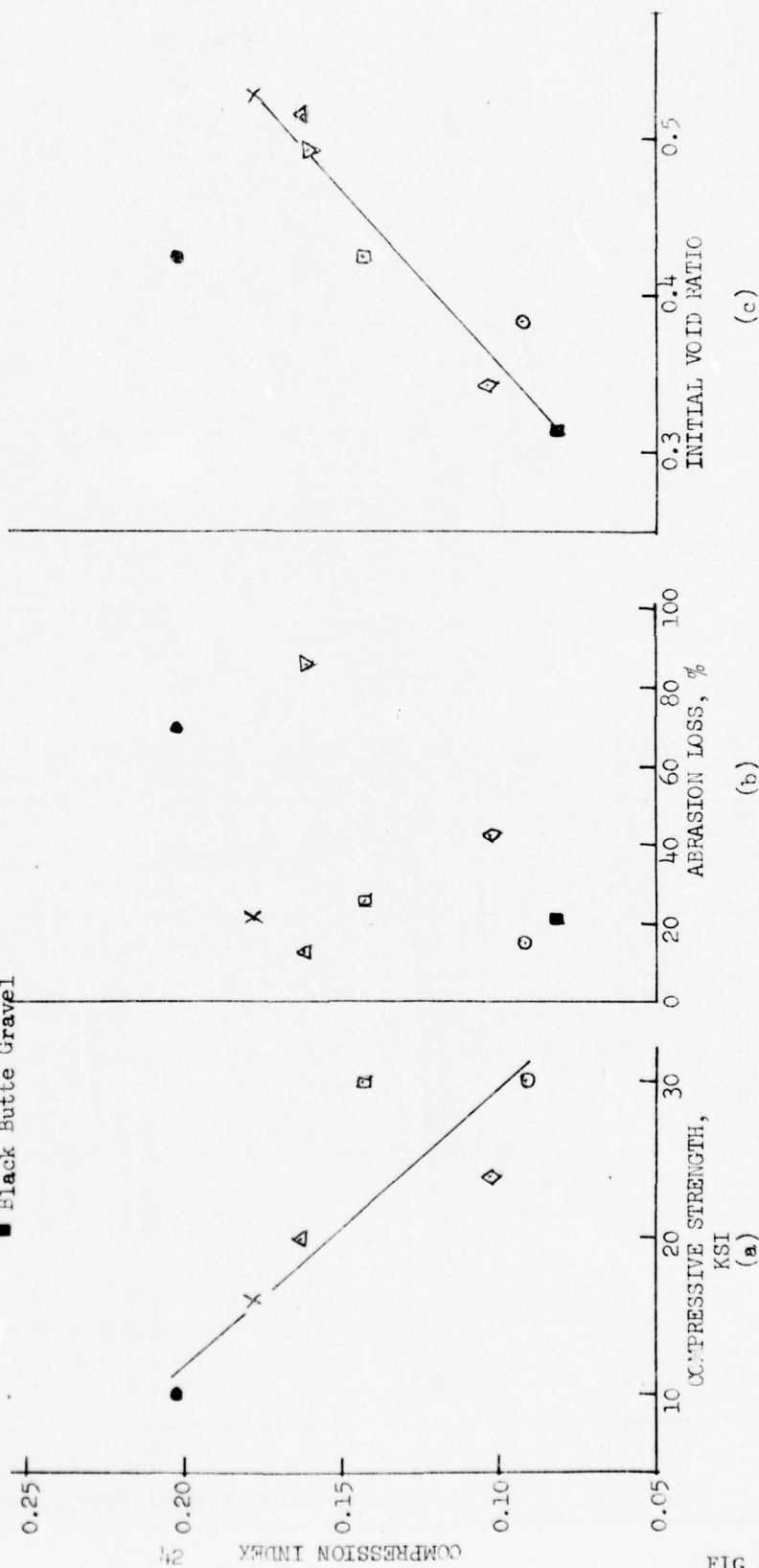
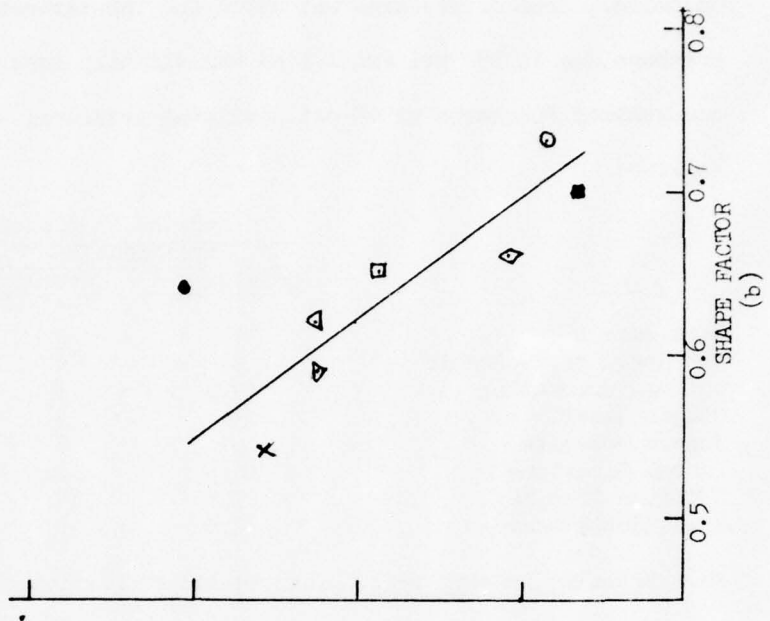
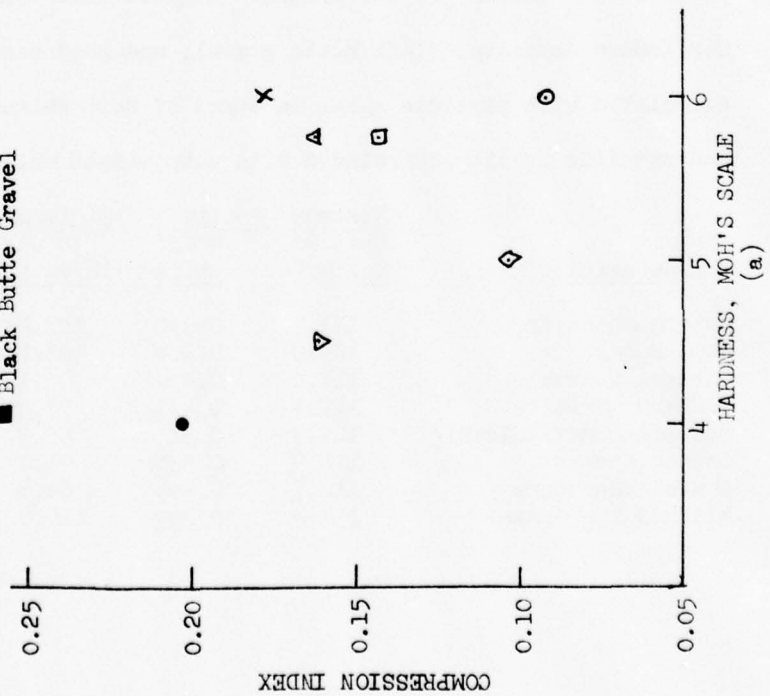


FIG 23

COMPRESSION INDEX  
VS.  
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES  
of  
Saturated Consolidation Specimens

- Napa Basalt
- △ New Hogan Metavolcanic
- Carters Quartzite
- × Cougar Basalt
- ◇ Sonora Dolomite
- ▽ Laurel Sandstone
- Buchanan Granite
- Black Butte Gravel



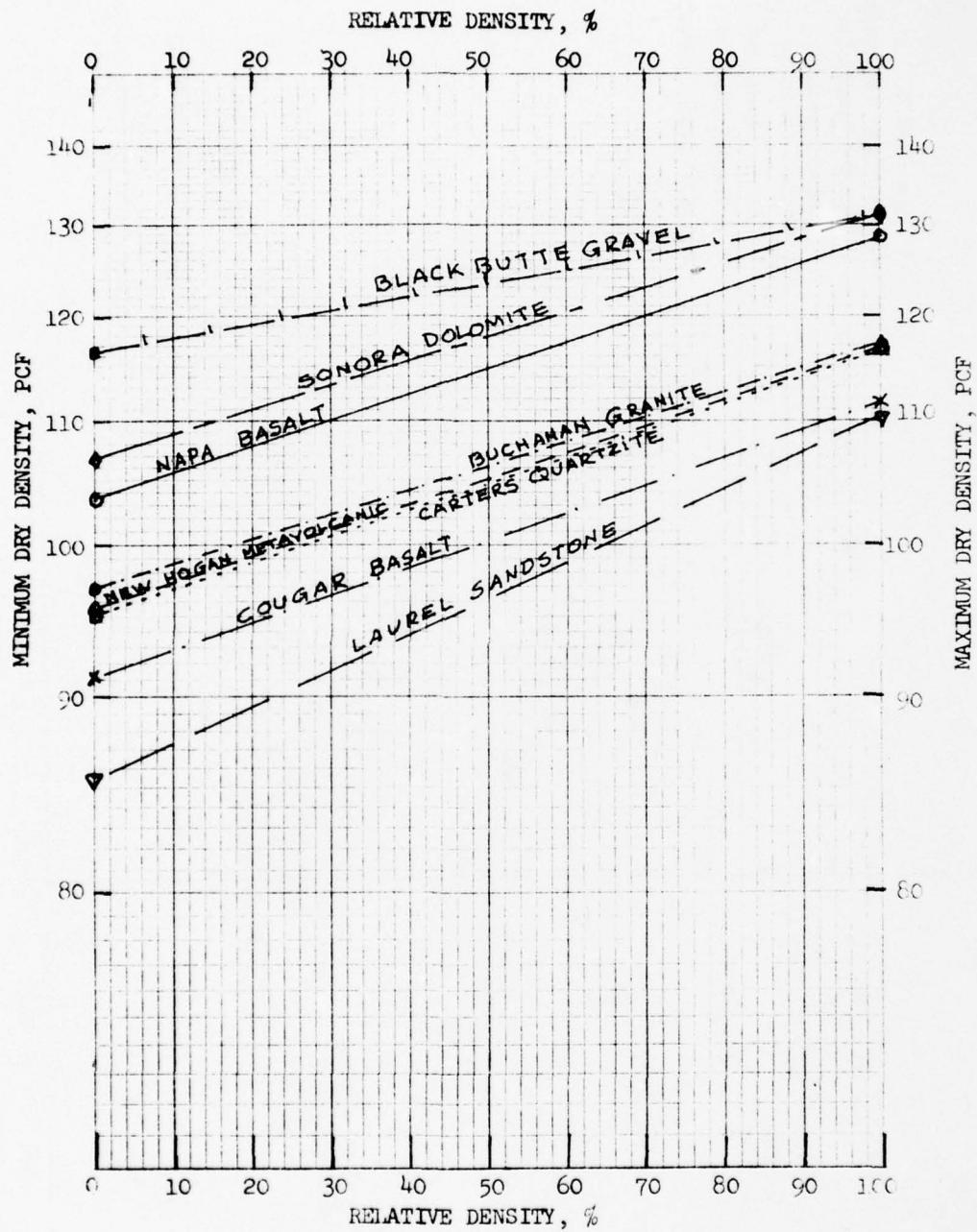
dolomite. Greater breakage was noted for the saturated specimens. Breakage due to 800 psi axial load was slightly less than for triaxial compression specimens at 60 psi confining pressure, summarized as follows:

Rock	Increase in % passing D <sub>10</sub> Size		
	Consolidation		Triaxial $\sigma_3 = 60$ psi
	Unsaturated	Saturated	
Napa Basalt	4	4	3.5
New Hogan Metavolcanic	3	3	4
Carters Quartzite	3.5	5	7
Cougar Basalt	3	4.5	5.5
Sonora Dolomite	5	6.5	8
Laurel Sandstone	10.5	12.5	17.5
Buchanan Granite	7.5	12	14
Black Butte Gravel	3.5	5	-

26. Relative Density Test. The results of maximum and minimum densities are summarized below, and are also shown graphically on Fig. 25. The difference between maximum and minimum density for rockfill materials was 23 to 28 pcf and 15 pcf for gravel. Highest unit weights were obtained for Sonora dolomite, Black Butte gravel, and Napa basalt. Density correlated with particle shape in terms of unit weight and void ratio, and specific gravity correlated with unit weight only (Fig. 26 & 27).

Material	Maximum Density		Minimum Density		Density Difference lb/cu.ft.
	Unit wt. lb/cu.ft.	Void Ratio	Unit wt. lb/cu.ft.	Void Ratio	
Sonora Dolomite	131.7	0.350	107.0	0.662	24.7
Napa Basalt	129.0	0.384	103.7	0.721	25.3
Carters Quartzite	117.0	0.456	95.1	0.791	21.9
Buchanan Granite	117.3	0.431	97.0	0.731	20.1
New Hogan Metavolcanic	117.3	0.511	95.3	0.859	22.0
Cougar Basalt	111.9	0.528	91.2	0.875	20.7
Laurel Sandstone	110.7	0.494	85.6	0.932	25.1
Black Butte Gravel	131.6	0.299	116.6	0.446	15.0





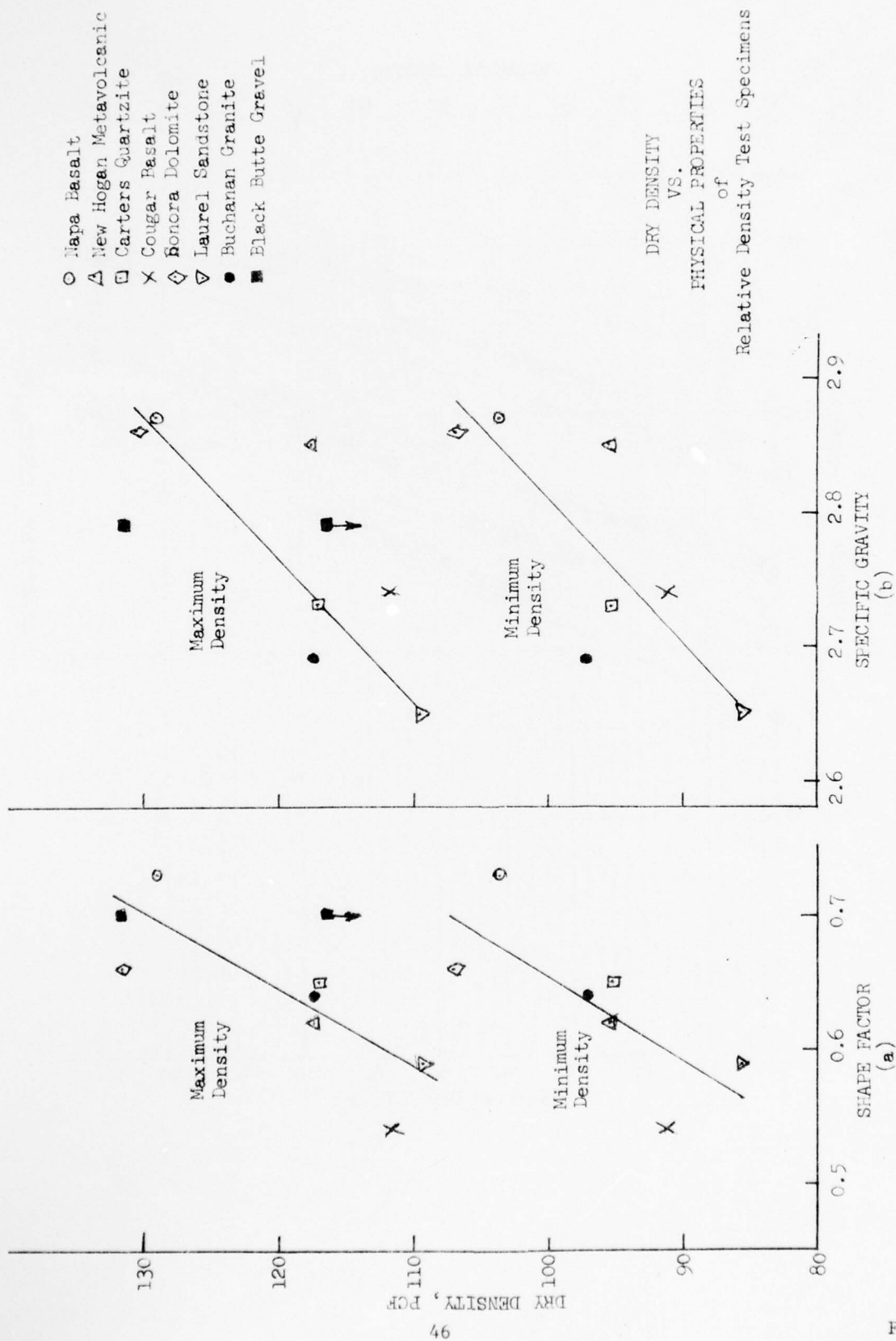
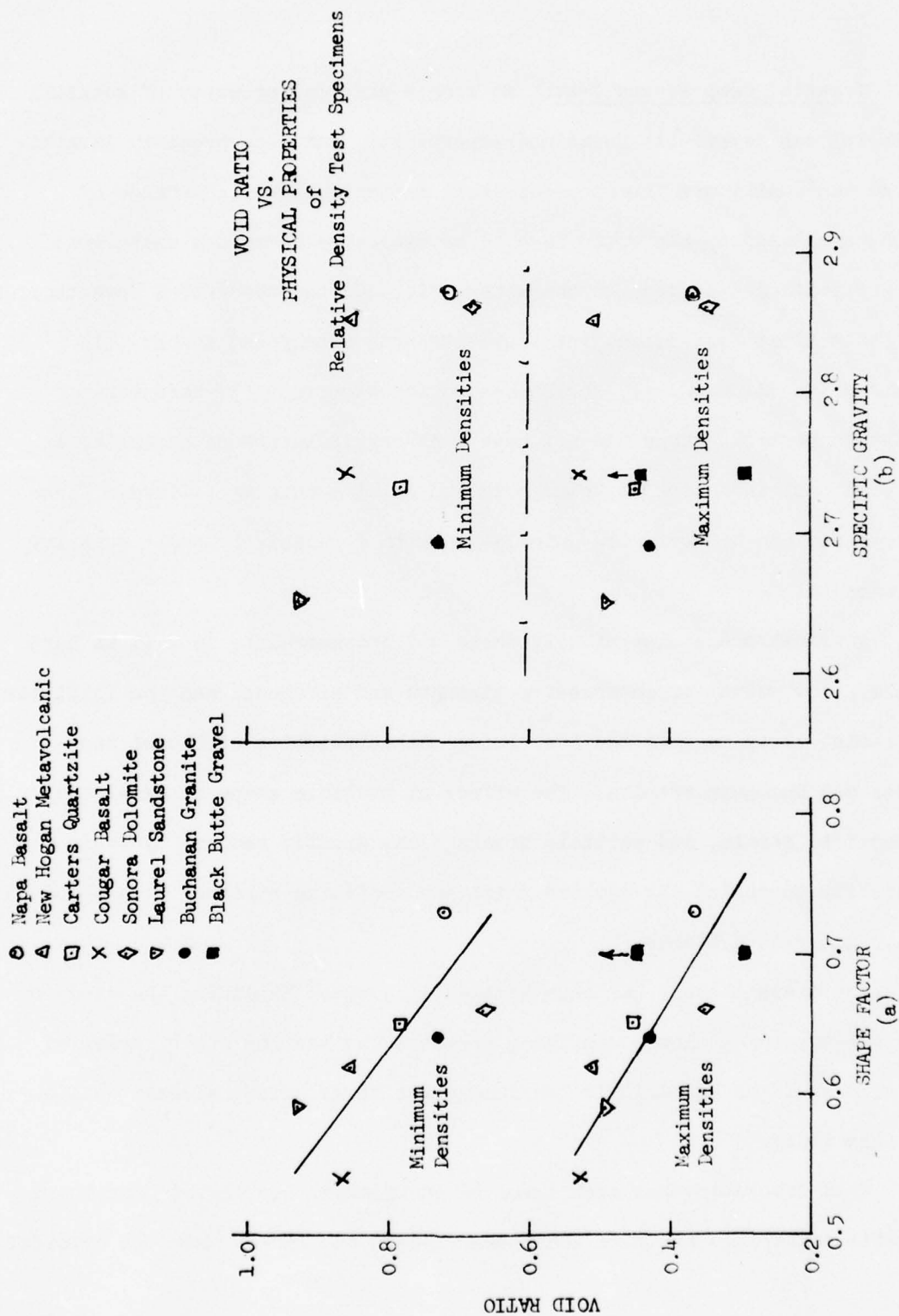


FIG 26



## CONCLUSIONS

27. Triaxial Compression Test. No single physical property of rockfill material can reveal its shear characteristics, but each property investigated can contribute toward a realistic estimate. The importance of each physical property would have to be evaluated as to its usefulness for estimating a particular characteristic. Of the properties investigated, the three that best define intrinsic strength were found to be: (1) Compressive strength, (2) resistance to abrasion, and (3) hardness. Although particle shape did not have a strong influence on strength, it was the best indicator of volumetric and axial strain at failure. These four tests can be performed quickly and with a relatively small quantity of material.

28. Physical properties of soft rocks did not correlate as well as hard rocks. Low values of compressive strength and hardness, and the inability to resist abrasion were the overriding characteristics of Laurel sandstone and Buchanan granite. The effect of particle shape on axial and volumetric strain, and particle breakage was greatly reduced by their inability to resist the applied axial and confining stresses because of their inherent softness.

29. The present study has been limited in scope. Expanding the study to include testing at lower confining pressure and testing other varieties of rock would be valuable in confirming the correlations already obtained in this study.

30. This laboratory has been involved in triaxial testing of gravel and rockfill materials for more than twenty years but rarely were the physical



properties determined, and, in many instances both high and low density test series were not performed. However, New Melones Dam rockfill was recently tested at two densities as well as for abrasion loss and compressive strength. By utilizing the values of these two properties, the average angle of internal friction at 60 psi confining pressure was estimated to be 48 degrees. The actual test value at 100 percent relative density was 47 degrees. This material was a metavolcanic rock with a quarry-run gradation similar to that shown in Figure 1.

31. Consolidation Test. Consolidation at 800 psi varied from 3.7 to 8.1 percent for dry tests and 5.5 to 10.7 percent for saturated tests, a difference of about two percent. Variation in the magnitude of change due to wetting varied considerably between rock types. Carters quartzite was relatively unaffected, but notable increases were recorded for Cougar basalt and New Hogan metavolcanic. Since the difference did not correlate with any of the physical properties investigated, they may be due to the inherent friction characteristics of the principal minerals or to surface texture which was not investigated. Therefore, the sensitivity of a material to wetting could be determined only by some form of consolidation test. The properties that correlated with compression index were: (1) shape factor, (2) compressive strength, and (3) initial void ratio.

32. Particle Breakage. Breakage was shown to be related principally to confining and axial stresses, abrasion loss, and hardness. Factors which had less effect were particle shape, compressive strength, and water content. Consolidation tests showed that as the quality of the rock decreased, breakage due to wetting increased. Breakage for triaxial testing was considerably greater than for consolidation testing. Isotropic

consolidation resulted in more breakage than one-dimensional consolidation because of greater volumetric strain caused by the confining pressure. In addition particle breakage was increased because of greater axial strain, 15-30 percent compared to 4-11 percent for the consolidation testing. Density was not a major factor in particle breakage.

APPENDIX A  
TEST PLATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAFELITO, CALIFORNIA 94955

TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
ES 526 NATURAL GRADATION

NAPA BASALT

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions							Shear Data						
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	Before Consolidation			After Consolidation				Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Strain @ $\sqrt{1/3}$	Void Ratio @ Failure	$\phi$ Degrees			
			Dens. pcf	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	Water Content %								
156	129.0	103.7	128.3	129.8	.375	98	131.2	.361	102	12.6	100	60	384	12.1	.335	49.7
157			128.6	129.8	.375	98	132.3	.349	106	11.3	93	125	607	15.8	.303	45.1
158			128.2	129.8	.375	98	132.9	.343	107	11.2	94	300	1162	15.9	.253	41.3
159			128.5	130.3	.369	100	136.5	.308	117	10.0	93	400	1464	18.1	.215	40.2
160	129.0	103.7	103.6	108.3	.698	21	111.8	.596	31	20.3	97	60	260	30.4	.421	43.2
161			103.6	106.6	.673	14	112.8	.582	39	19.5	96	125	443	27.1	.420	39.7
162			103.9	106.9	.669	15	116.8	.528	55	16.2	88	300	860	28.7	.305	36.1
163			103.7	106.3	.676	13	120.9	.476	70	15.6	94	400	1122	*29.3	.251	35.7

- (1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)
- Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

\*Did not peak.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CAESALITO, CALIFORNIA 94925

TRIAxIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
BA 526 NATURAL SAND

NEW HOGAN DAM METAVOLCANIC

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions								Shear Tests				
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	Before Consolidation (1)				After Consolidation (2) (3) (4)				Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Strain @ Maximum $\sqrt{1-\sigma_3}$	Void Ratio @ Failure	$\phi$ Degrees	
			Dens. pcf	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	RD %	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	RD %	Con- tept %					Sat. %
164	117.3	95.3	117.1	119.6	.482	99	121.7	.456	106	-	60	327	17.9	.395	47.0
165			117.2	119.0	.487	98	123.9	.431	112	14.2	125	581	24.1	.318	44.4
166			116.9	119.0	.489	98	128.6	.378	126	-	300	1074	24.3	.241	39.9
167			117.2	119.9	.478	100	131.2	.350	134	9.9	400	1377	24.6	.206	39.4
168	117.3	95.3	96.0	99.5	.781	21	103.8	.708	40	22.0	60	216	28.1	.500	40.0
169			97.1	101.0	.754	28	108.9	.627	61	19.7	125	372	29.1	.406	36.8
170			96.9	100.0	.772	23	113.8	.558	79	15.1	300	768	*29.4	.307	34.2
171			97.2	101.1	.753	28	115.6	.532	86	18.4	400	1051	*28.2	.306	34.6

(1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)

Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

\*Did not peak.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, COMPS OF ENGINEERS  
SANSALITO, CALIFORNIA 94065

TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
EC 526 NATURAL GRADATION

CARTERS DAM QUARTZITE

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions				After Consolidation		Water		Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Shear Data	
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	(1) Dens. pcf	(2) Dens. pcf	(3) Voids Ratio %	(4) R <sub>u</sub> %	Dens. pcf	Voids Ratio %	RD %	Content %		Strain @ Maximum Deviator Stress 1-3	Voids Ratio @ Failure
180	117.0	95.1	119.3	120.6	.413	96	123.0	.385	104	12.4	60	14.6	.288
181			119.5	120.7	.412	97	124.1	.372	107	12.3	125	16.6	.277
182			119.5	121.7	.399	100	129.2	.319	120	11.4	300	21.9	.205
183			118.7	121.4	.403	99	130.8	.303	124	10.7	400	21.7	.193
184			95.9	98.3	.733	15	101.9	.672	31	22.5	60	30.0	.436
185	117.0	95.1	96.0	99.4	.714	20	106.9	.594	50	21.1	125	*31.9	.304
186			96.4	101.2	.684	27	117.3	.452	86	14.0	300	*28.9	.244
187			96.4	100.9	.688	26	118.3	.440	90	16.0	400	*28.3	.246

- (1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)
- Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 2.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

\*Did not peak.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA 94965

TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
ES 526 NATURAL GRADATION

COUGAR DAM BASALT

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions										Shear Data				
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	Before Consolidation				After Consolidation				Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Strain @ Maximum 1-3	Void Ratio @ Failure	$\phi$ Degrees			
			(1) Dens. pcf	(2) Dens. pcf	(3) Void Ratio	(4) RD %	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio	RD %	Water Content %					Sat. %		
172	111.9	91.2	112.3	114.6	0.492	100	116.3	0.471	106	15.9	93	60	310	19.8	0.442	46.1	
233			112.3	113.8	0.501	98	118.2	0.444	113	16.0	98	125	540	23.0	0.314	43.1	
174			112.4	113.7	0.504	97	121.8	0.403	123	-	-	300	993	25.9	0.267	38.5	
175			112.8	114.2	0.497	99	124.6	0.372	131	13.1	96	400	1302	24.5	0.231	38.3	
176																	
177	111.9	91.2	92.4	95.8	0.785	23	97.1	0.761	30	23.8	86	60	233	27.3	0.553	41.3	
178			92.5	97.4	0.756	31	105.5	0.621	66	21.8	96	125	457	28.7	0.383	40.2	
179			92.5	98.3	0.739	35	111.0	0.540	88	18.5	94	300	841	28.8*	0.311	35.7	
			92.3	95.7	0.787	23	113.2	0.509	96	17.7	95	400	1095	28.8*		35.3	

- (1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)
- Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

Effo Peak

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA 94965

TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
ES 526 NATURAL GRADATION

SONORA DOLOMITE

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions						Shear Data			
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	Before Consolidation		After Consolidation		Water Content %		Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Strain @ Maximum 1-3	Void Ratio @ Failure	$\phi$ Degrees
			(1) Dens. pcf	(2) Dens. pcf	(3) Void Ratio	(4) RD %	Dens. pcf	RD %	Void Ratio	RD %	Sat. %	
238	131.7	107.0	132.8	134.0	.327	100	135.6	.311	.276	60	98	44.2
239			132.7	134.0	.327	100	136.1	.306	148	125	98	41.8
240			132.7	133.4	.333	98	139.3	.287	104	300	92	38.6
241			132.7	133.8	.330	99	141.9	.253	1331	400	92	31.6
242			112.8	116.7	.524	41	121.3	.466	244	60	98	42.1
243			112.9	115.8	.536	35	123.7	.437	427	125	100	39.1
244			113.0	116.7	.524	41	130.2	.366	986	300	100	36.6
245			113.0	115.1	.545	35	131.0	.358	1110	400	98	35.6

- (1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)
- Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

\*Did not peak.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION LABORATORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA 94965

TRIAXIAL COMPRESSION TEST DATA  
BS 526 NATURAL GRADATION

LAUREL DAM SANDSTONE

Test No.	Compaction Test		Specimen Test Conditions										Shear Data				
	Maximum Density pcf	Minimum Density pcf	Before Consolidation (1)		Consolidation (2)		(3)		After Consolidation (4)		Water Content %	Sat. %	psi	Maximum Deviator Stress psi	Strain @ Maximum Failure %	Void Ratio @ Failure	$\phi$ degrees
			Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	Dens. pcf	Void Ratio %	RD %	Con- tept %							
269	110.7	86.5	110.9	112.3	0.468	100	113.9	0.447	105	17.0	100	60	241	26.1	0.350	42.0	
266			110.1	112.3	0.468	100	113.6	0.450	104	16.5	98	60	237	22.1	0.359	41.6	
189			110.9	111.7	0.475	98	114.8	0.435	107	15.3	96	125	365	18.1	0.335	41.1	
190			109.4	110.5	0.491	94	116.0	0.420	111	14.8	93	300	987	17.3	0.321	38.5	
267			110.7	111.1	0.483	96	115.9	0.422	110	15.4	97	300	983	20.5	0.299	38.4	
191			110.9	111.7	0.475	98	118.4	0.392	117	13.9	94	400	1288	17.1	0.295	38.1	
270	110.7	86.51	86.5	89.5	0.840	15	93.7	0.758	33	22.7	79	60	190	30.0*	0.515	37.8	
193			86.5	90.8	0.814	21	98.2	0.677	52	22.6	88	125	373	30.3	0.400	36.8	
194			86.9	90.6	0.819	20	100.8	0.634	62	17.7	74	300	821	23.6*	0.470	35.3	
195			87.3	92.5	0.781	28	110.0	0.501	92	18.2	96	400	1075	23.8	0.342	35.0	

Note:

- a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0
- b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5
- c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches
- d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

\* No Peak

(1) By vibration

(2) After evacuation at 14 psi

(3) " " "

(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)

(1) By vibration  
(2) After evacuation at 14 psi  
(3) " " " "  
(4) Computed from maximum value in Column (2)

Note: a. Coefficient of uniformity - 9.0  
b. Coefficient of curvature - 1.5  
c. Specimen diameter - 12.0 inches  
d. Specimen height - 27.6 inches

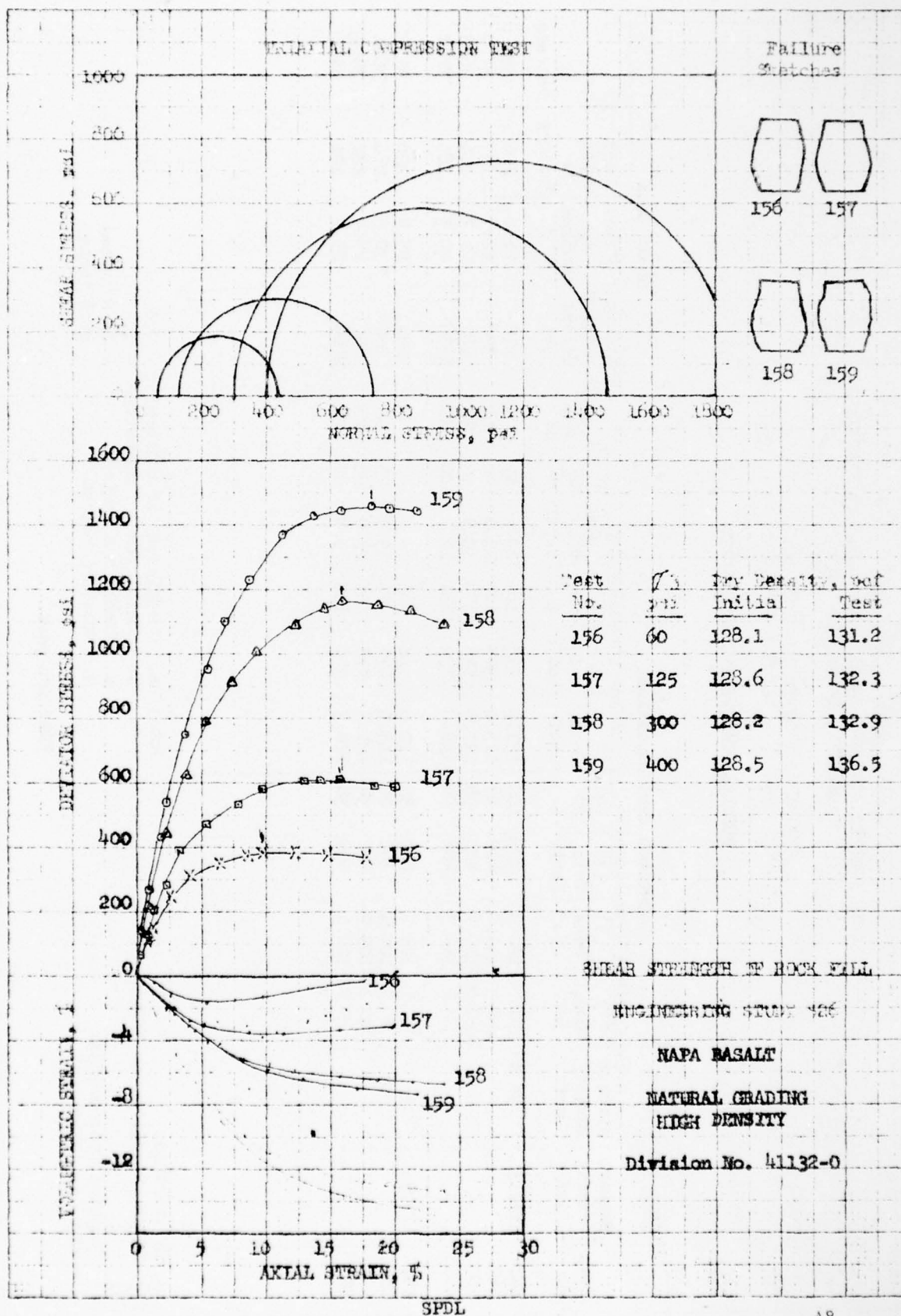
\* No Peak

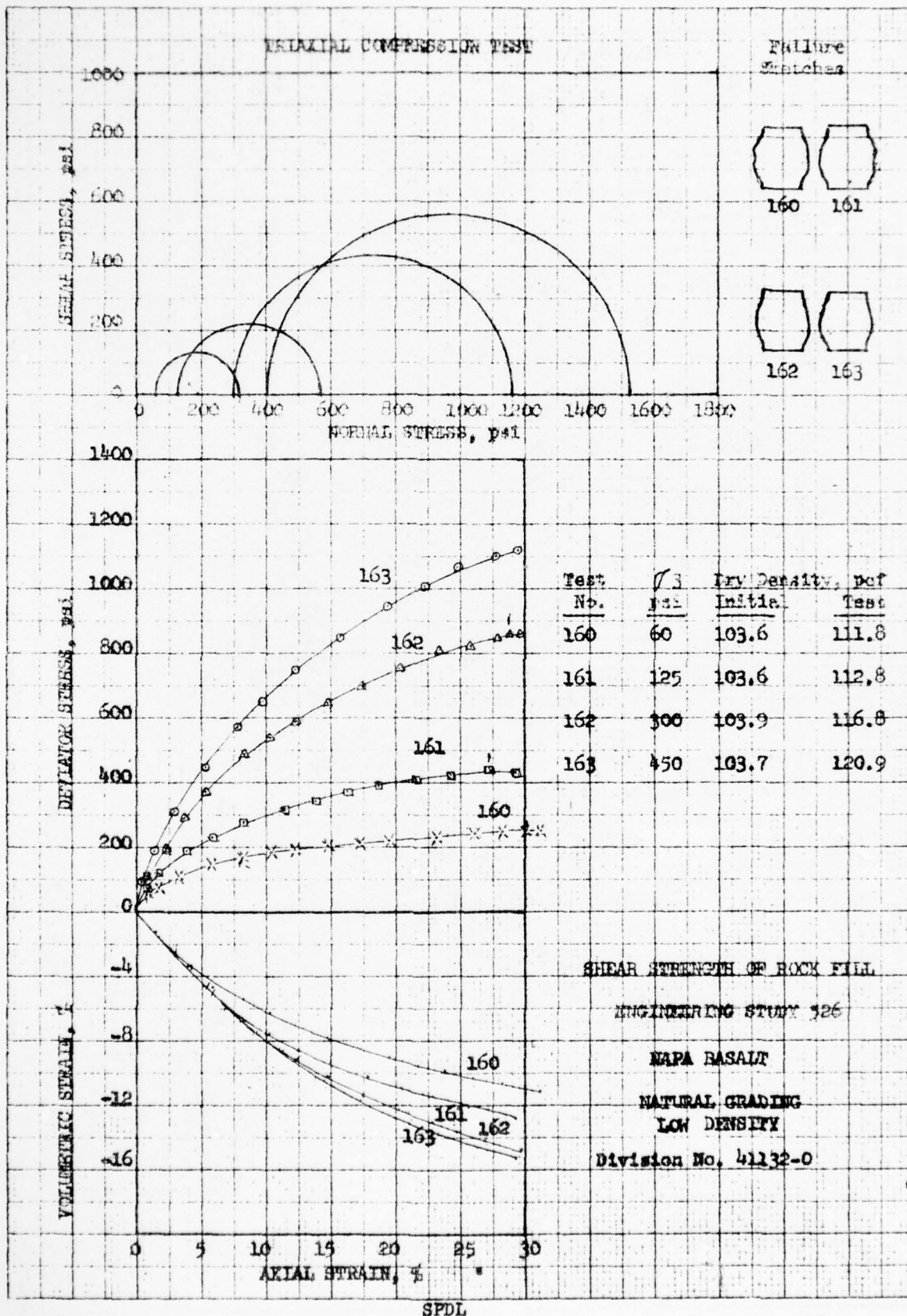
BUCHANAN DAM WEATHERED GRANITE

(1)	By vibration	
(2)	After evacuation at 14 psi	
(3)	" "	
(4)	Computed from maximum value in Column (2)	

Note:	a.	Coefficient of uniformity	- 9.0
	b.	Coefficient of curvature	- 1.5
	c.	Specimen diameter	- 12.0 inches
	d.	Specimen height	- 27.6 inches

\*Did not peak.

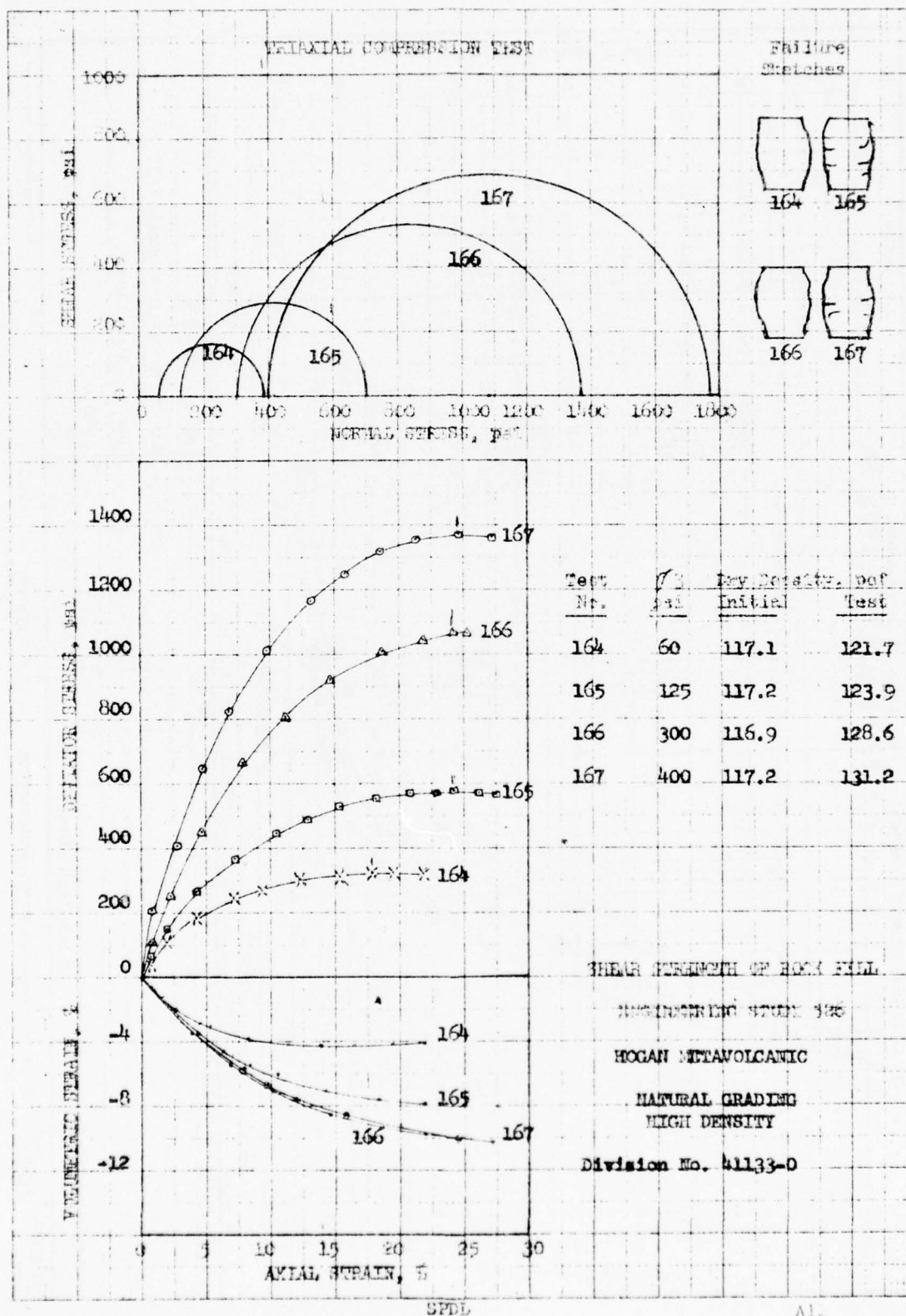


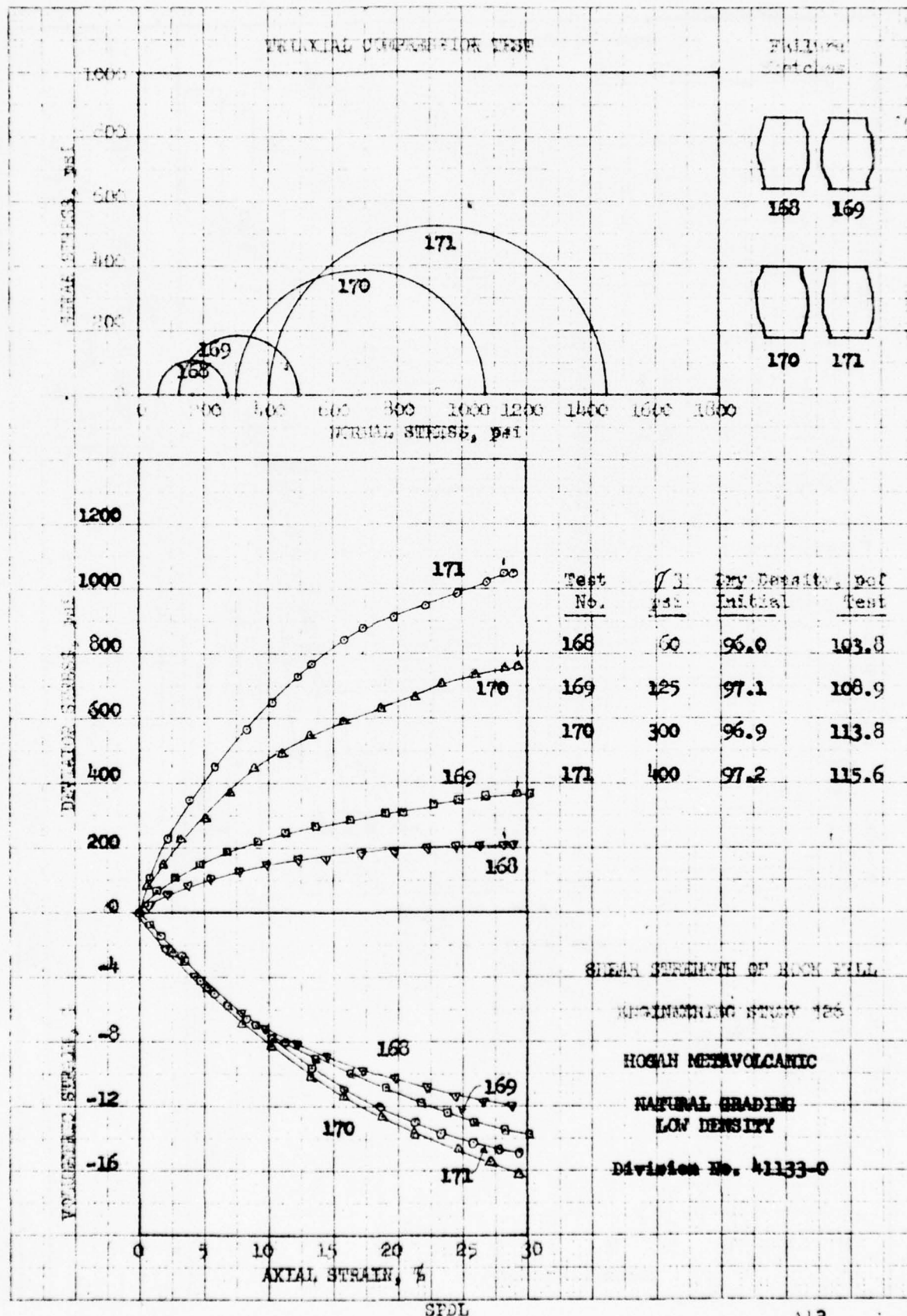




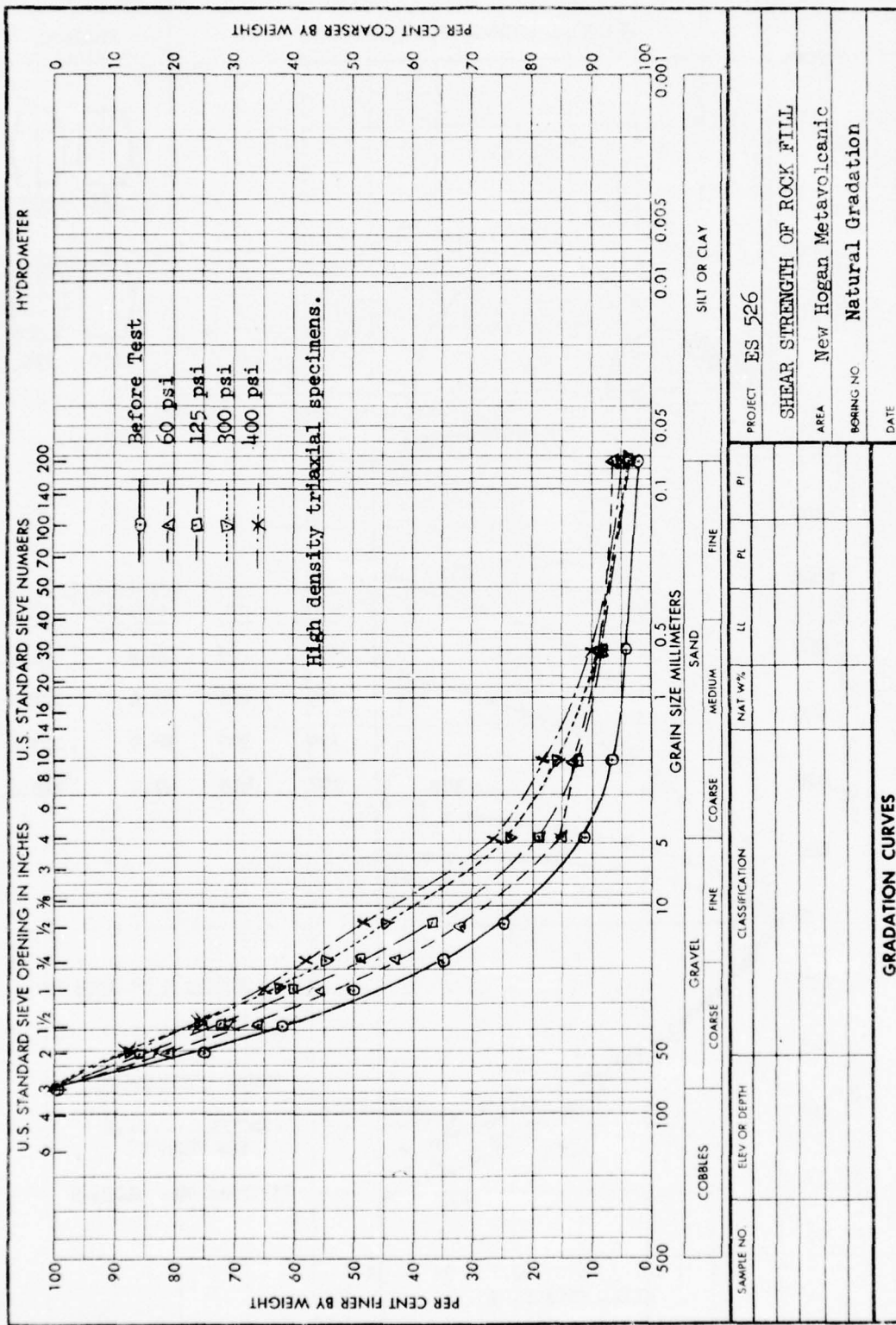








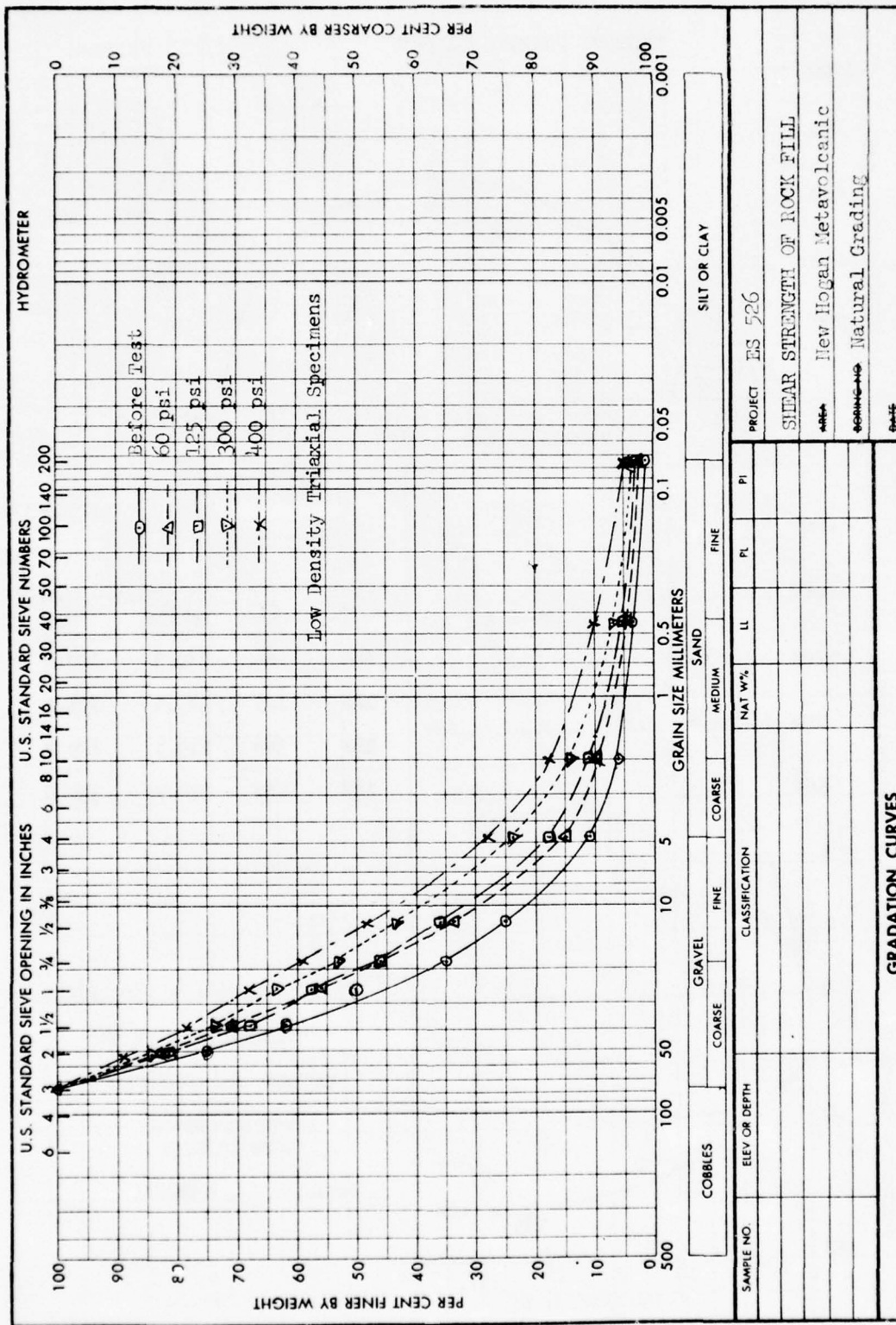


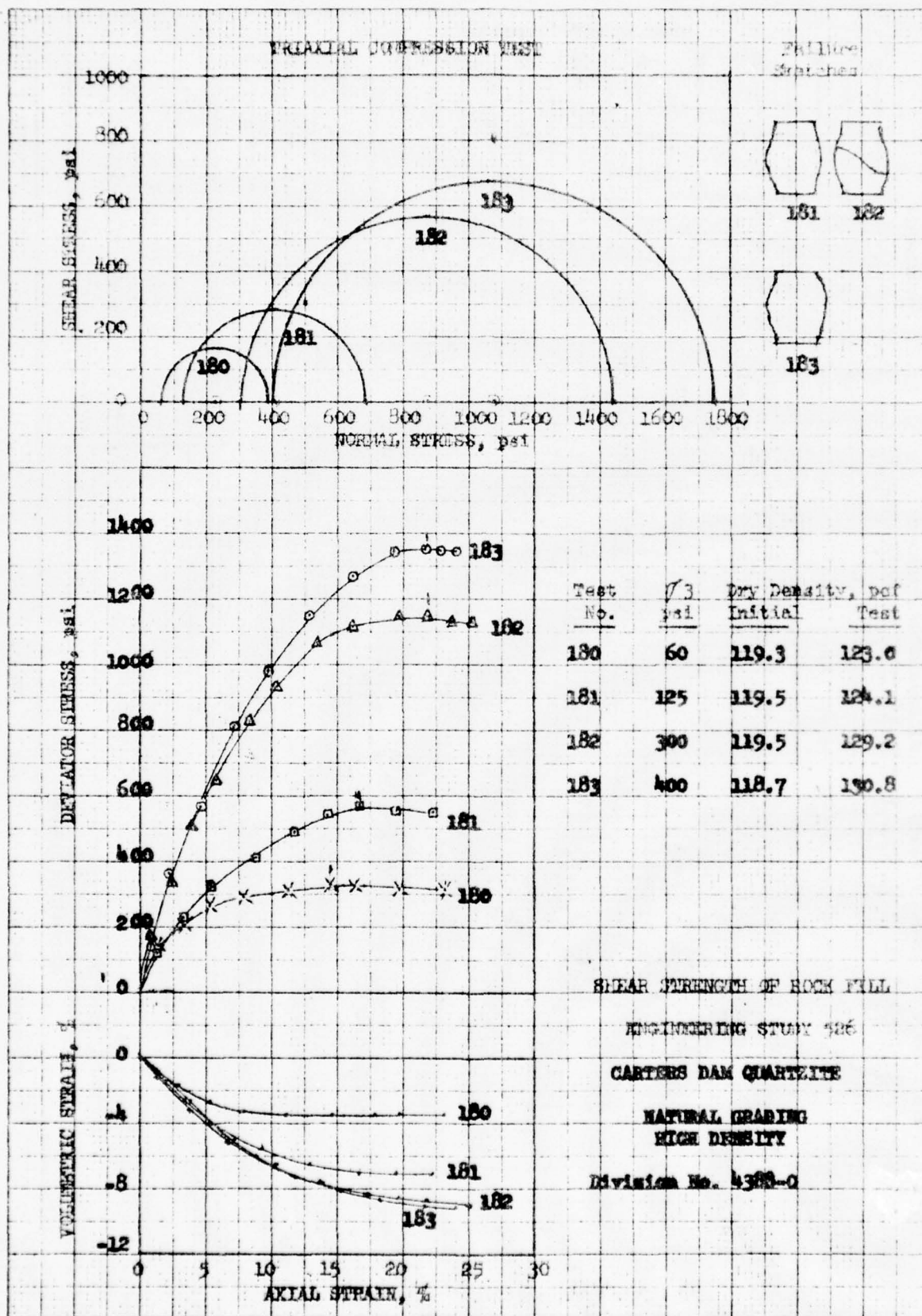


ENG FORM 2087 REPLACES WES FORM NO. 1241, SEP 1962, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. (TRANSILUCENT) SPDL

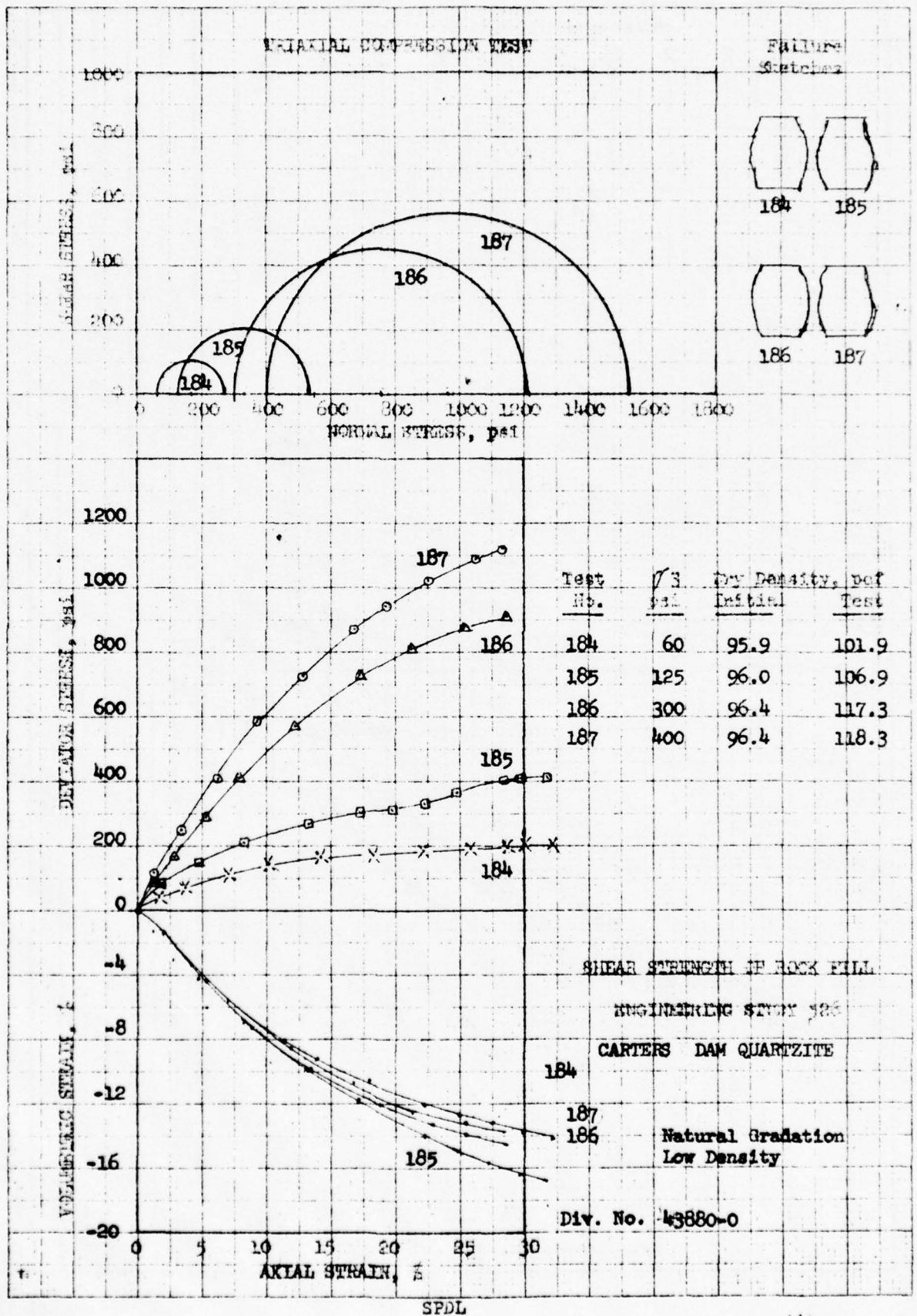
1 MAY 63

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1963 OF-706-124

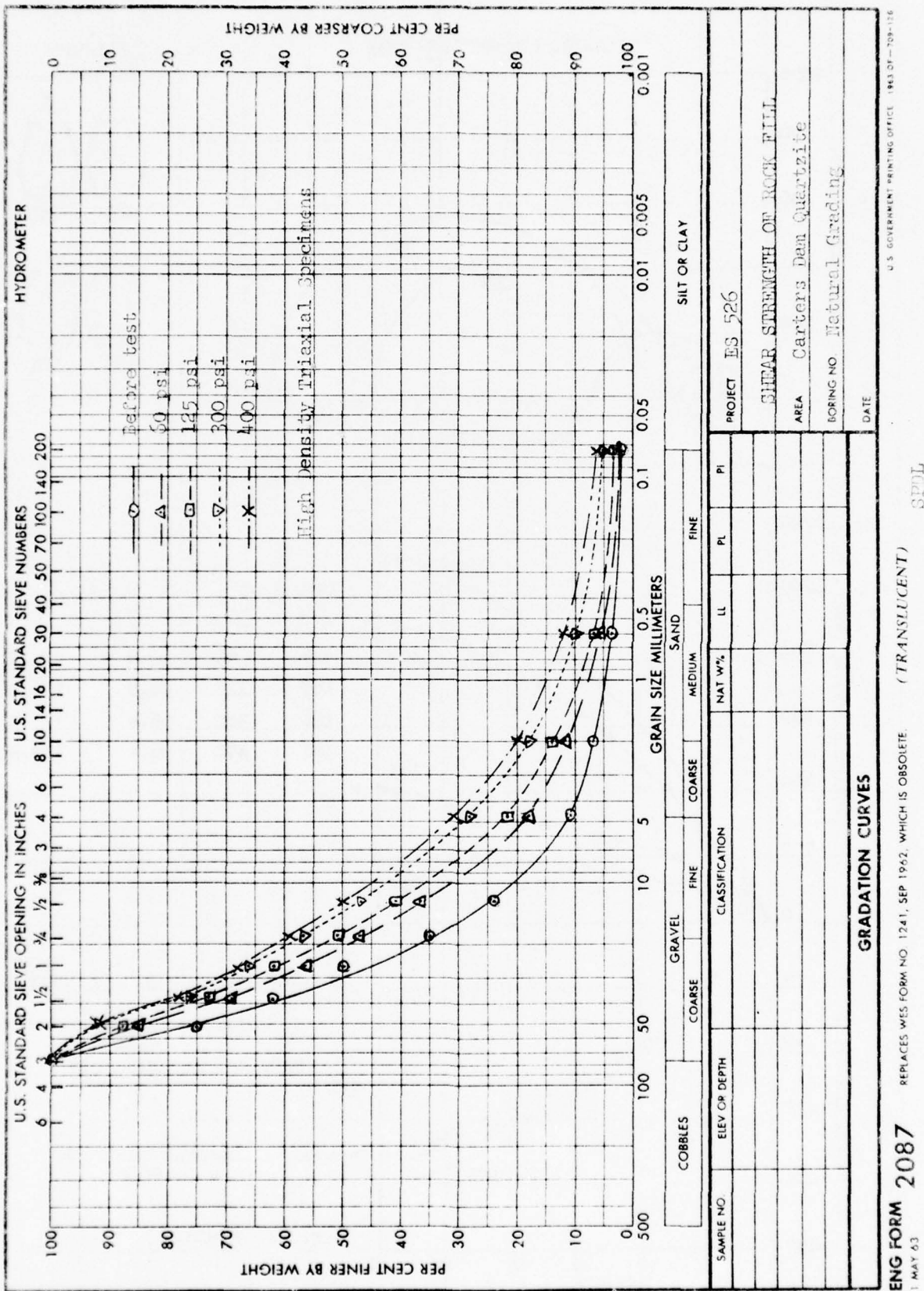




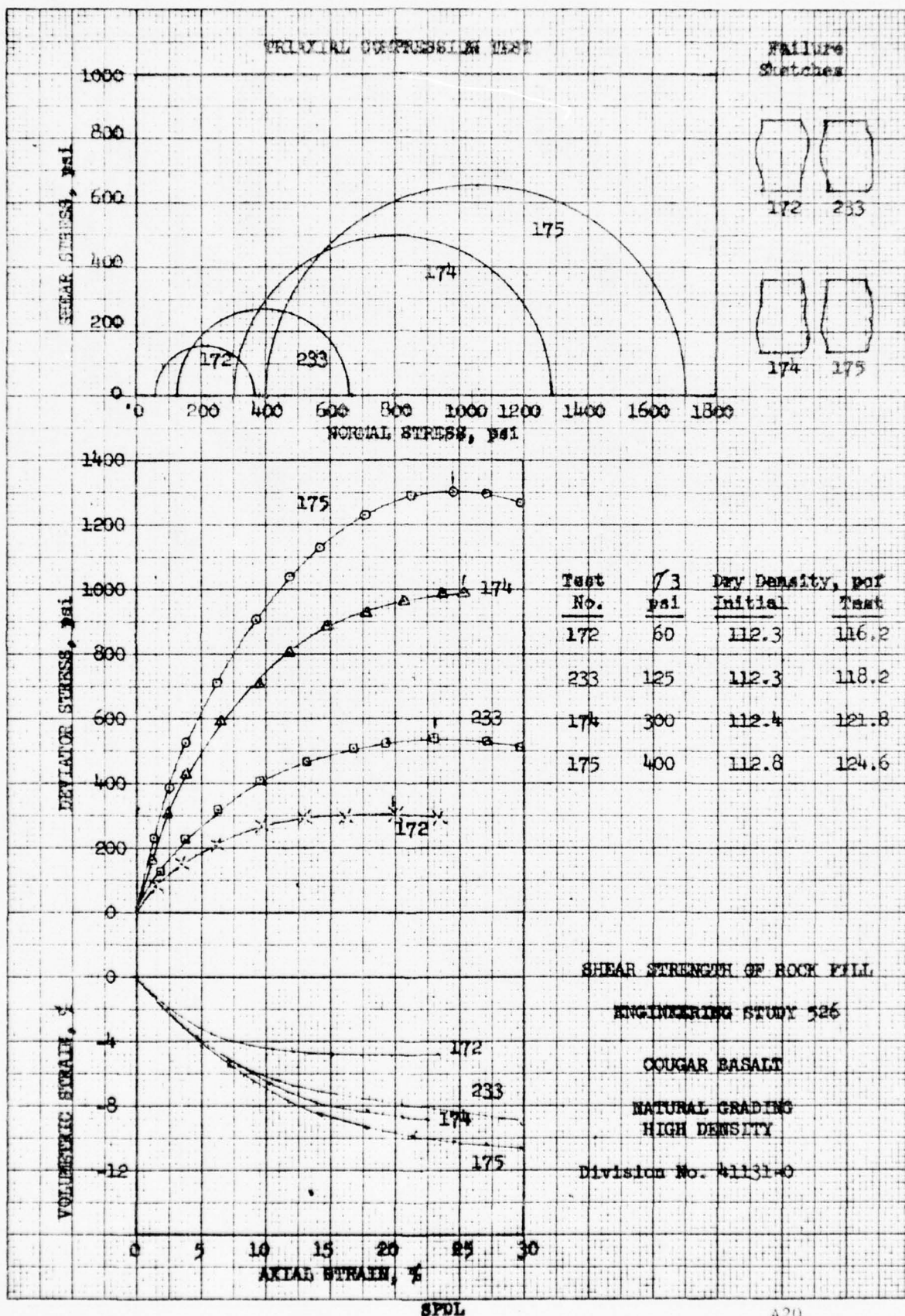








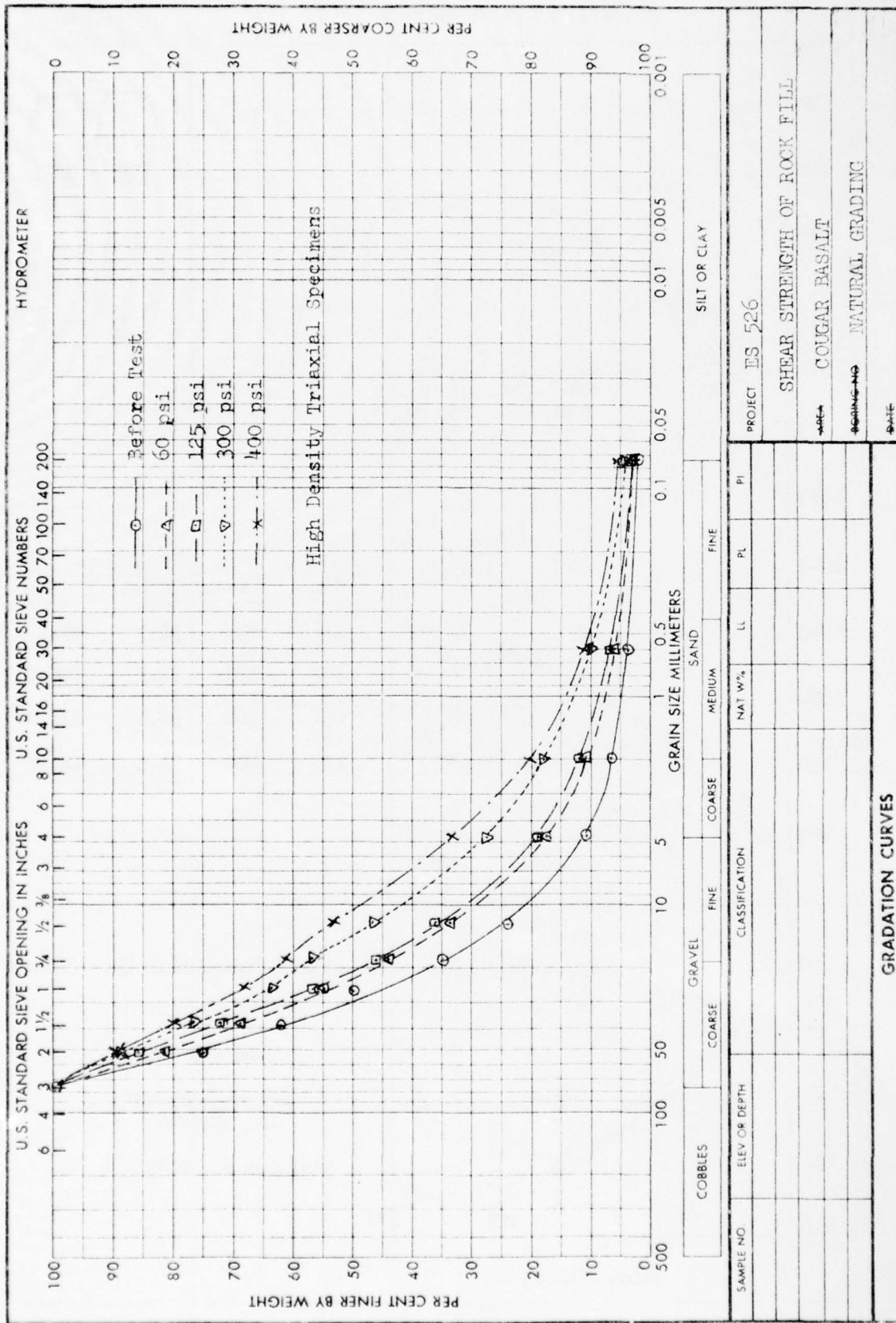












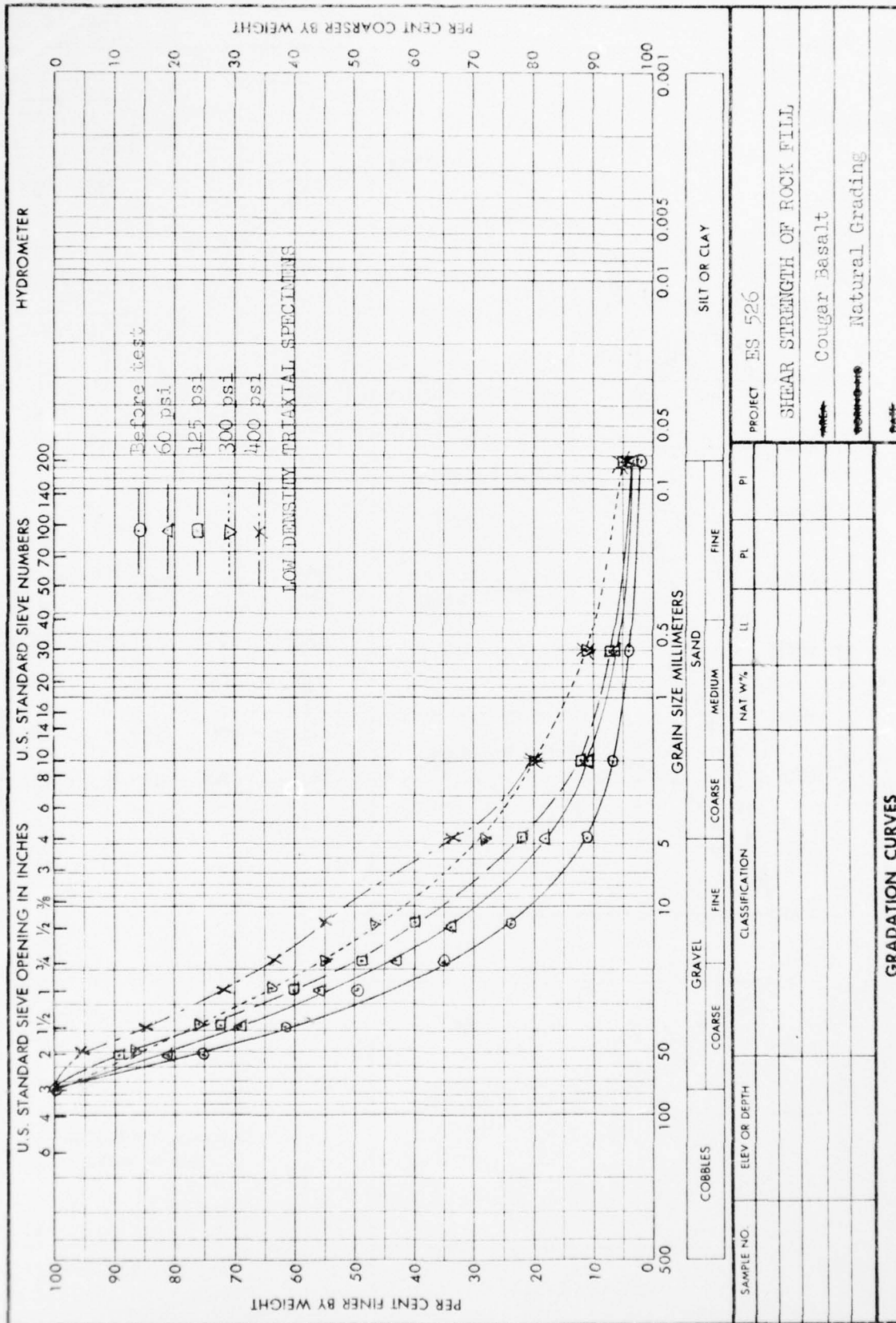
ENG FORM 2087  
1 MAY 63

REPLACES WES FORM NO. 1241, SEP 1962, WHICH IS OBSOLETE

(TRANSLUCENT)

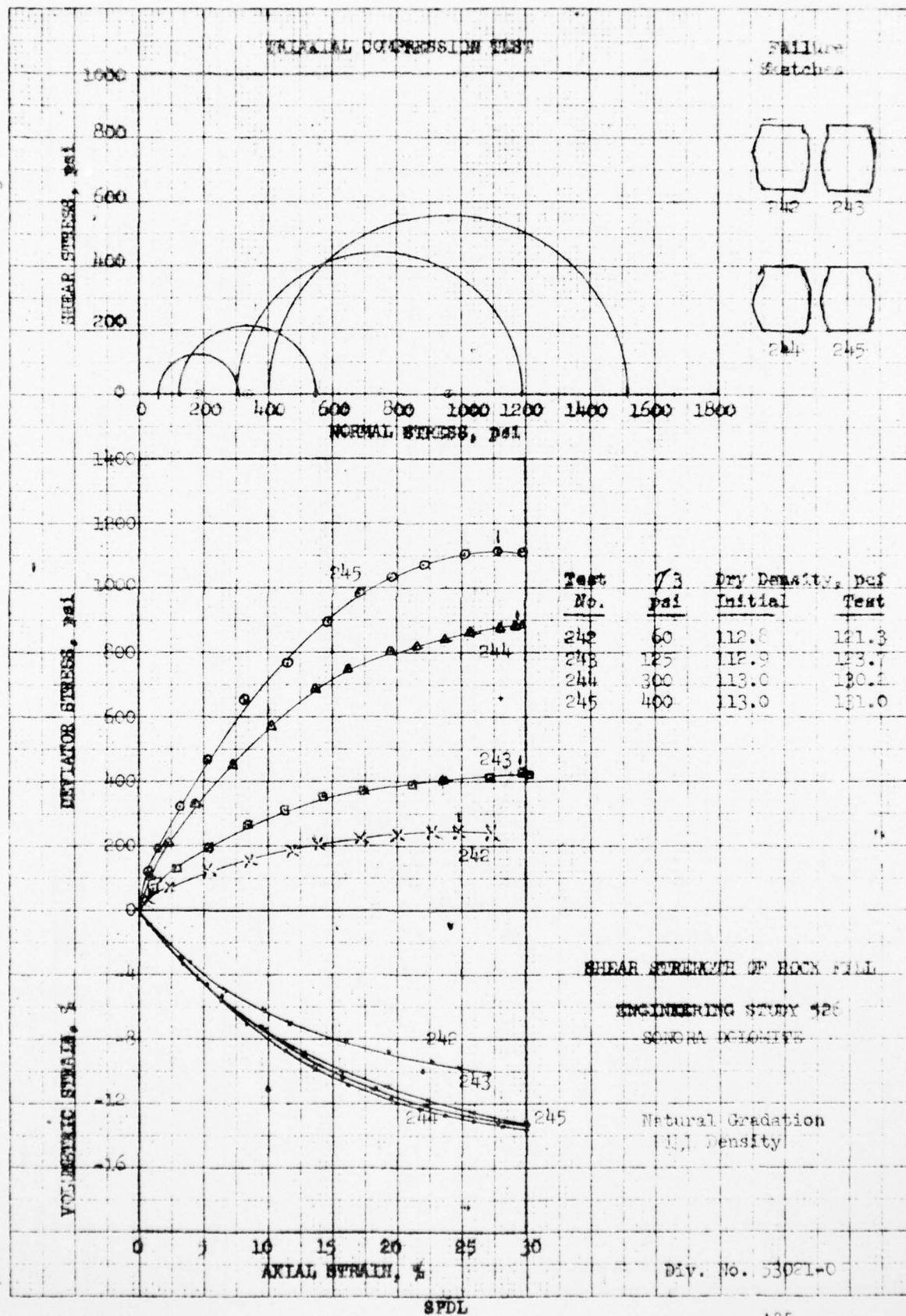
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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 OF - 209-124



ENG FORM 2087  
1 MAY 63

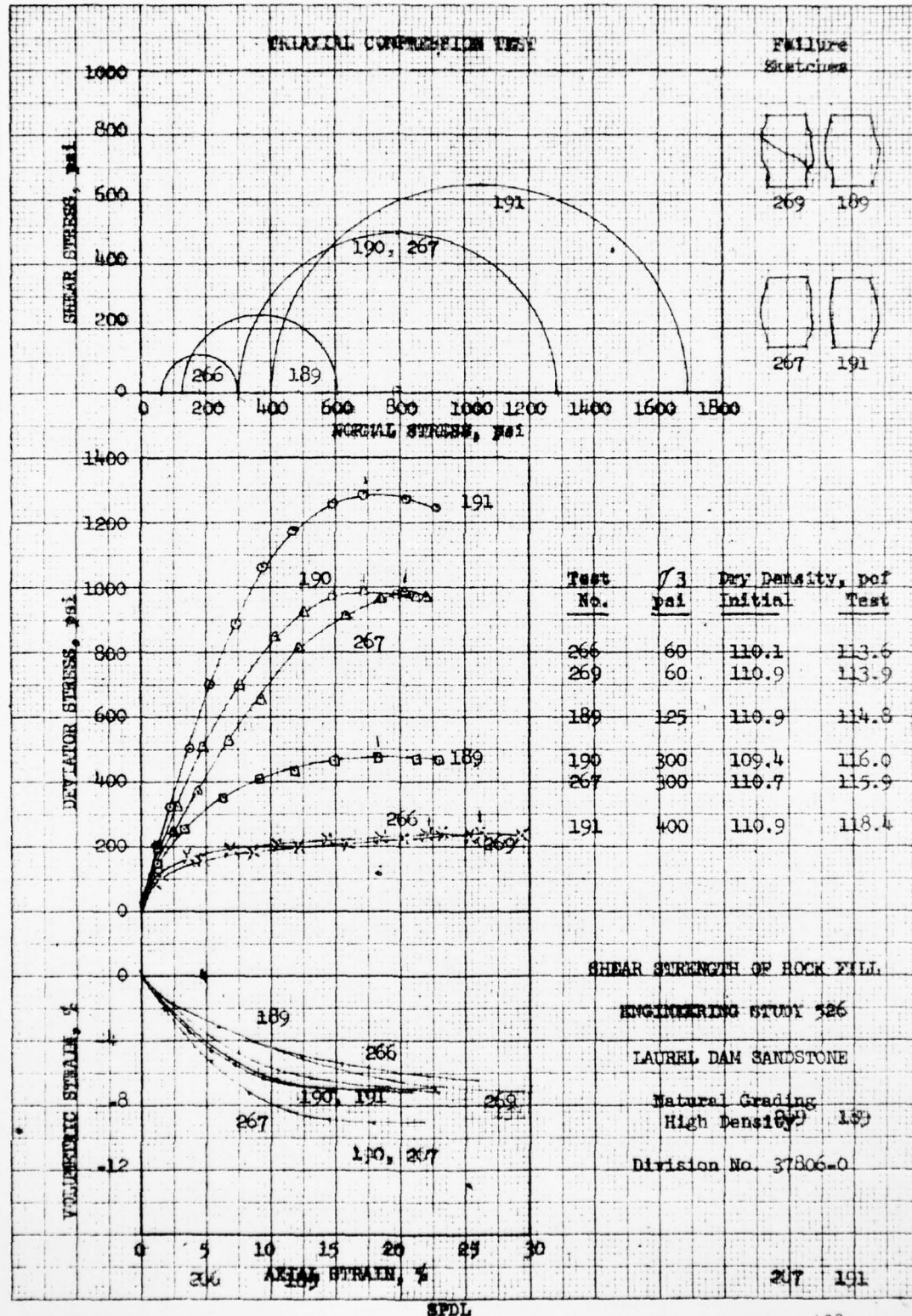




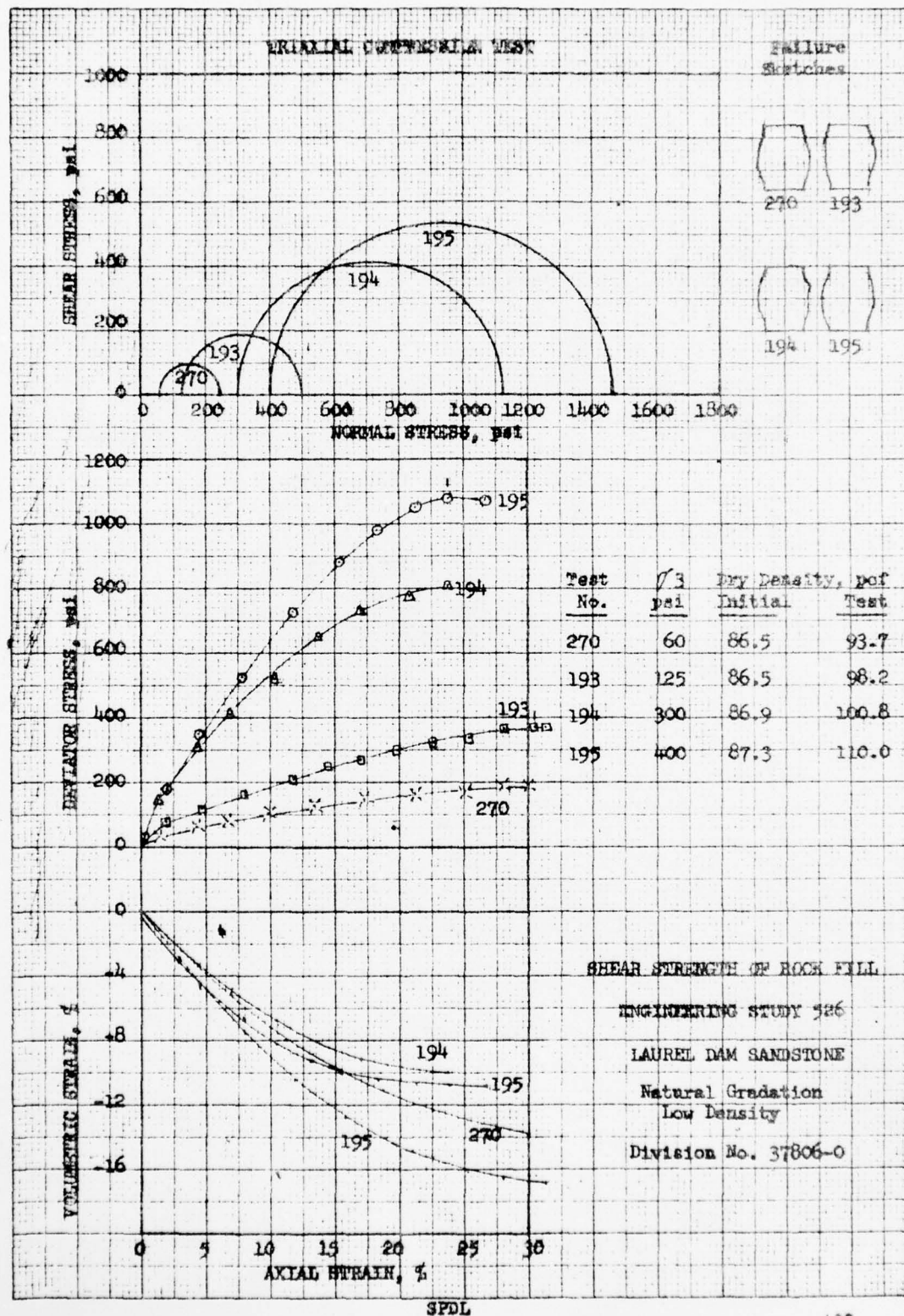






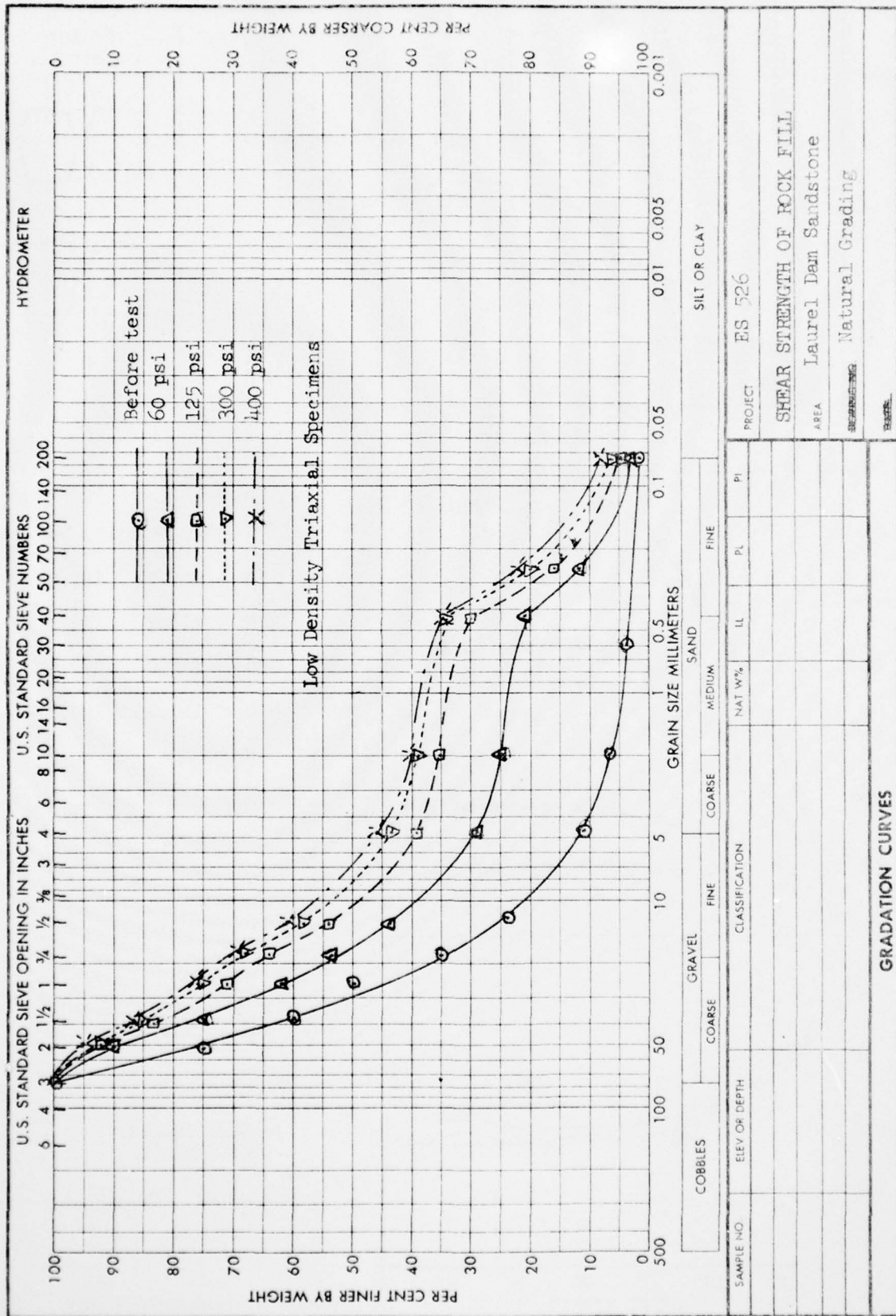




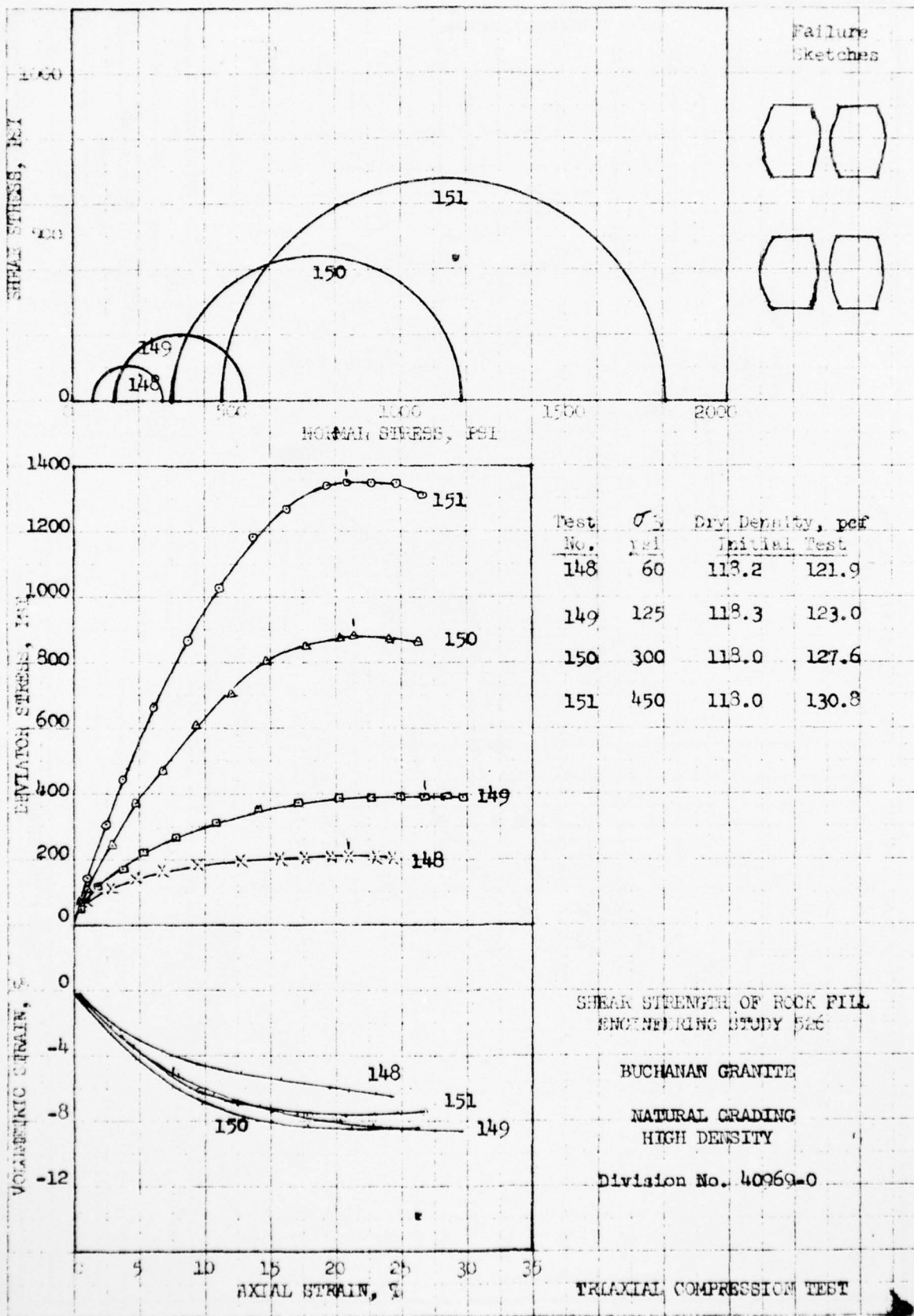


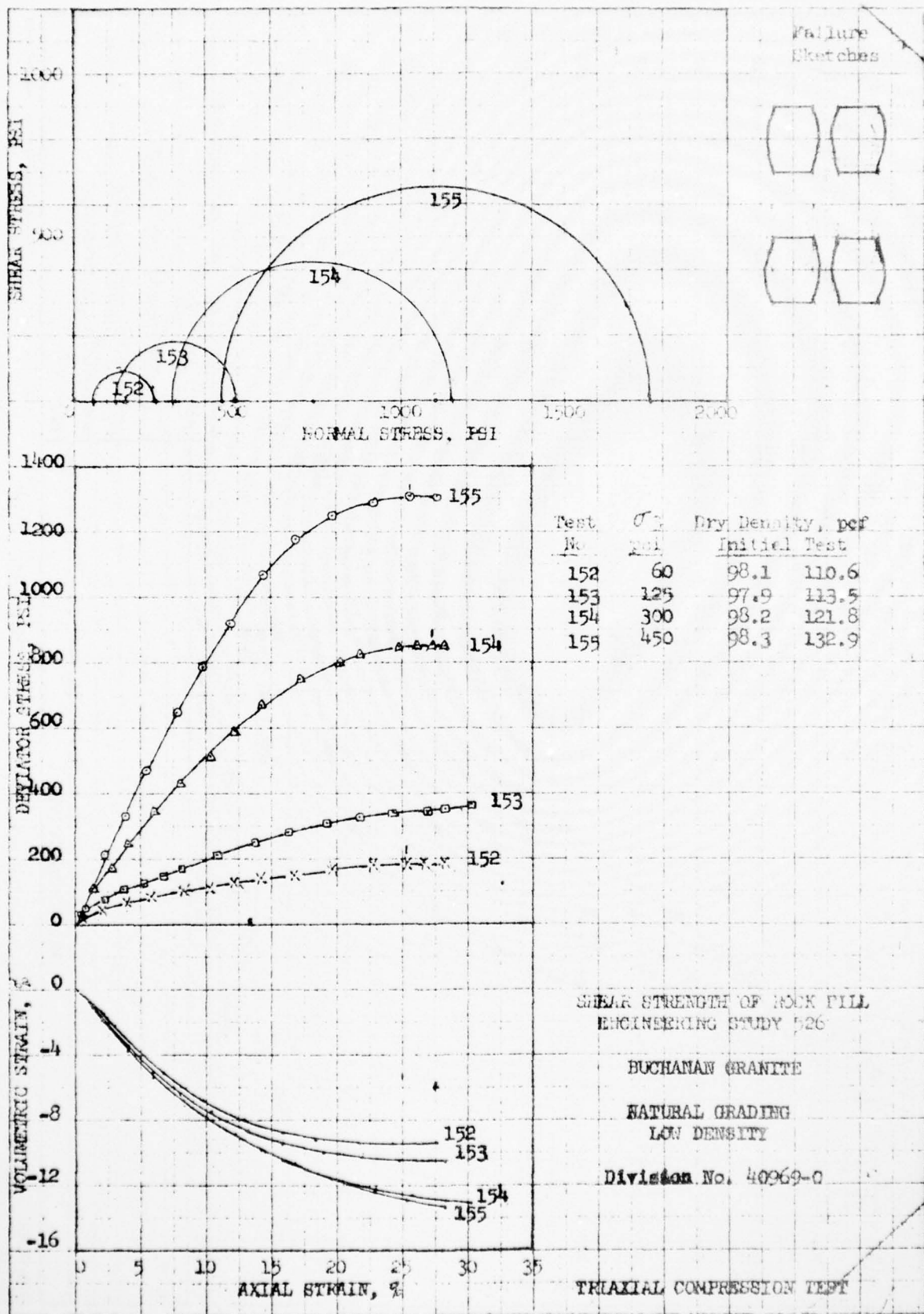




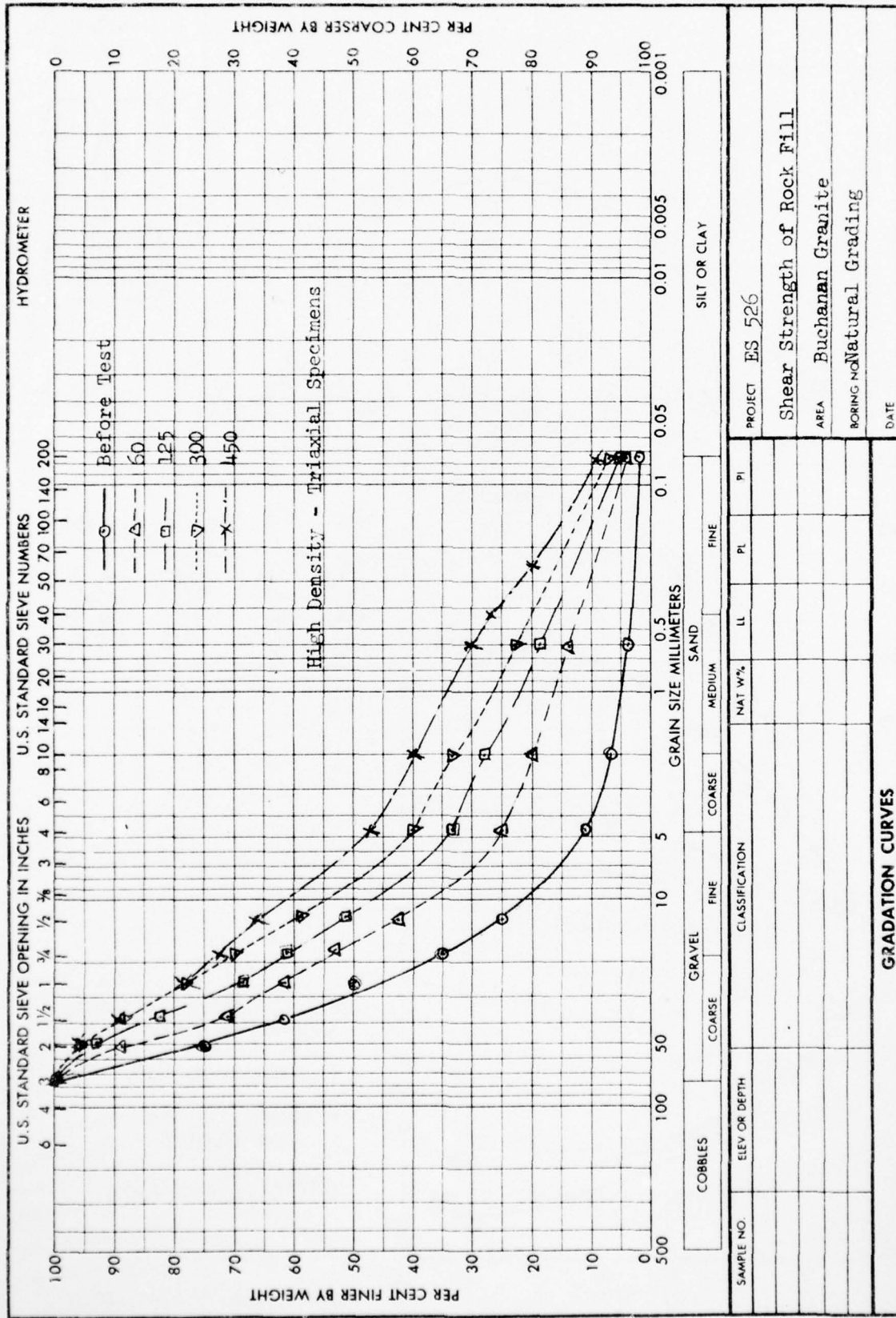


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1 MAY 63









U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 O-708-114  
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 ENG FORM 2087  
 1 MAY 63



ES 526

SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL

SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATION TESTS

Material	Napa Basalt		Carters Quartzite		Cougar Basalt		New Hogan Metavolcanic	
	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated
Initial Density, pcf	129.6	129.3	119.7	119.5	112.0	112.0	117.6	117.4
Initial Saturation, %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Final Saturation, %	0	99	0	90	0	93	0	93
Cumulative Consolidation in Percent of Initial Height								
Load, psi	0.25	0.44	0.30	0.13	-	-	0.11	0.52
Submerged	15	-	-	0.14	-	.31	-	0.65
	15	0.36	0.44	0.20	0.37	.39	0.17	0.92
	30	0.55	0.80	0.38	0.74	1.05	0.54	1.83
	60	0.95	1.52	0.97	1.43	2.08	1.32	3.05
	120	1.78	3.11	2.73	2.99	4.12	2.77	5.28
	250	3.64	6.41	6.39	5.49	8.44	5.74	9.09
Rebound	600	4.50	7.67	7.84	6.88	10.03	7.19	10.73
	800	4.07	7.16	7.36	6.29	9.58	6.81	10.23

AD-A042 710

CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAUSALITO CALIF SOUTH PACIFIC DIV LAB F/G 8/7  
SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCKFILL, PHYSICAL PROPERTIES. ENGINEERING ST--ETC(U)  
OCT 75 M W COHEN, D D LESLIE

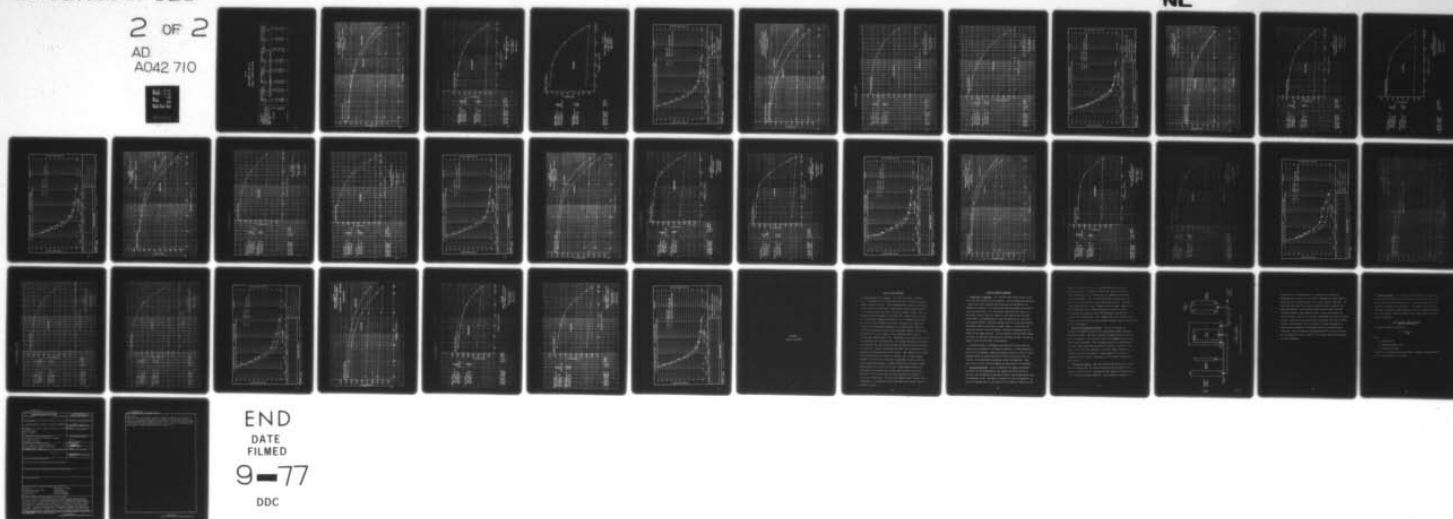
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2 OF 2

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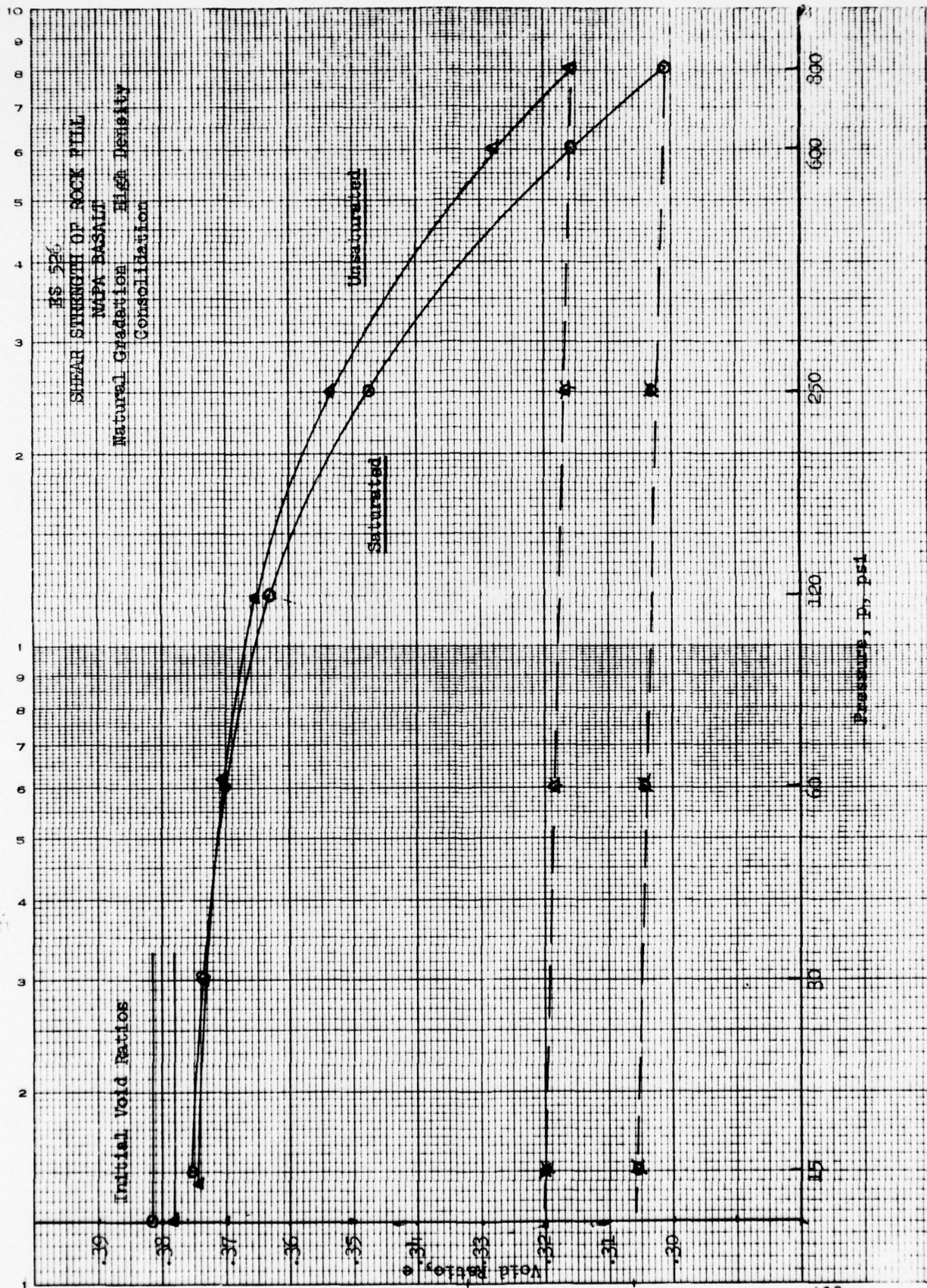


ES 526

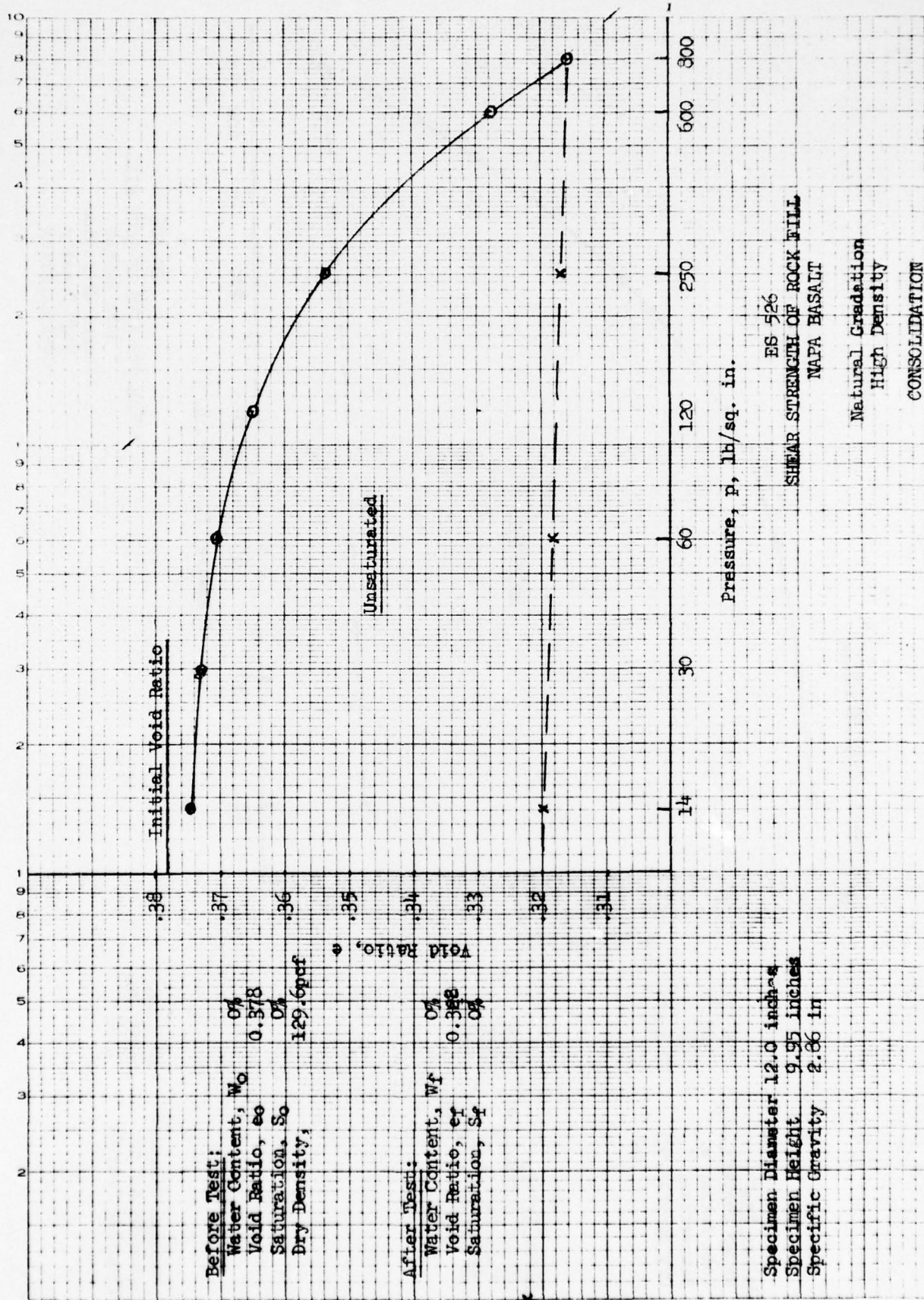
SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL

SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATION TESTS

Material Condition	Sonora Dolomite		Laurel Sandstone		Buchanan Granite		Black Butte Gravel	
	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated	Dry	Saturated
Initial Density, pcf	132.5	132.6	110.9	110.9	118.9	118.0	130.6	130.9
Initial Saturation, %	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Final Saturation, %	0	87	0	75	0	94	0	100
Load, psi	Cumulative consolidation in Percent of Initial Height							
15	0.15	0.27	0.28	0.61	0.26	0.22	0.25	0.38
Submerged	-	0.29	-	0.63	-	0.23	-	0.39
15	0.23	0.38	0.40	0.80	0.43	0.37	0.35	0.56
30	0.35	0.52	0.56	1.04	0.73	0.61	0.51	0.86
60	0.59	0.79	0.92	1.42	1.37	1.33	0.82	1.36
120	1.42	2.17	1.83	2.85	3.02	3.22	1.46	2.37
250	3.69	4.82	5.38	6.42	6.56	8.02	2.96	4.52
600	4.82	6.10	6.74	8.61	8.07	10.48	3.72	5.44
800								
Rebound	0	3.84	6.11	7.83	7.42	9.84	2.61	4.41



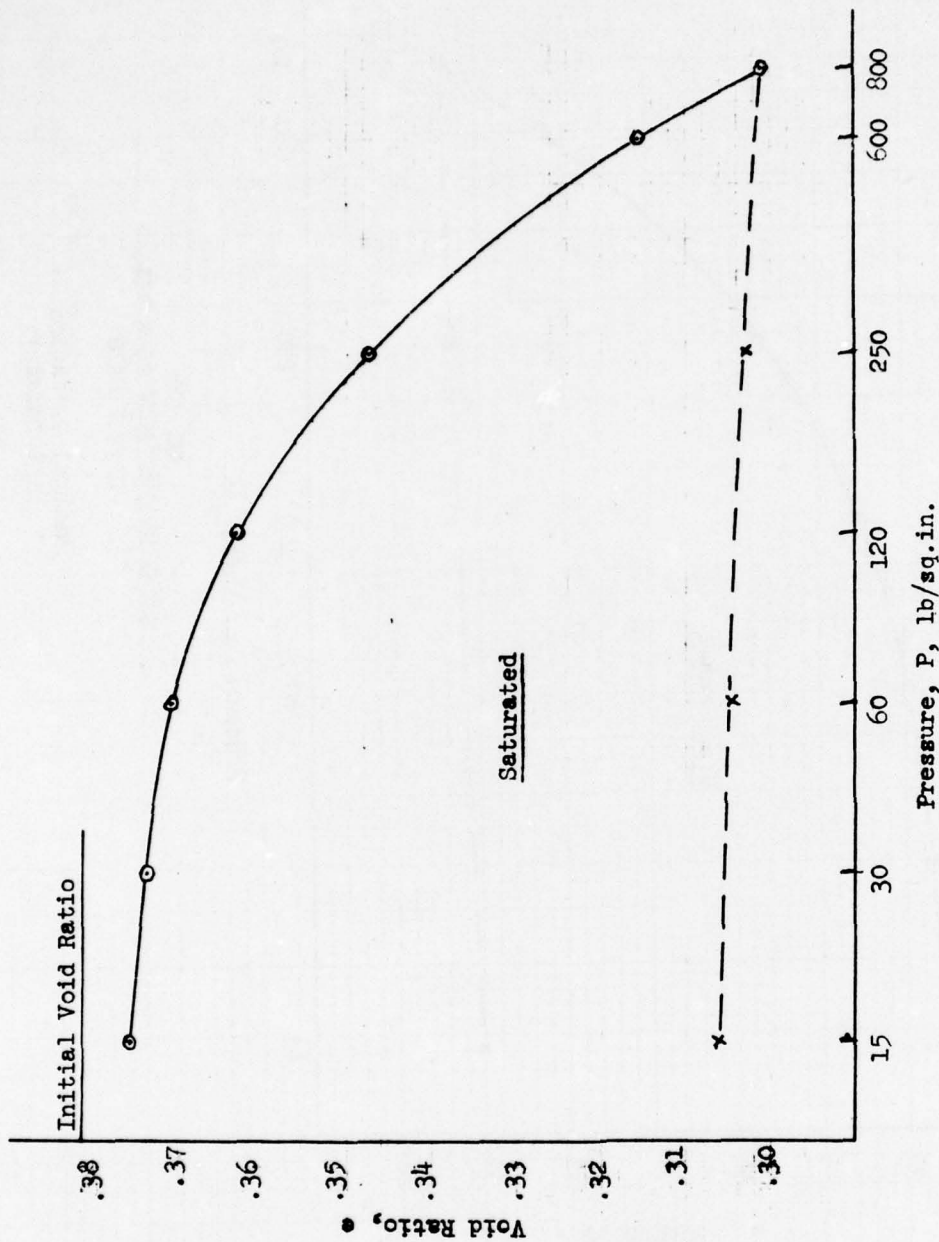




Before Test:  
 Water Content,  $w_o$  0%  
 Void Ratio,  $e_o$  .382  
 Saturation,  $S_o$  0%  
 Dry Density,  $\gamma_d$  129.3 pcf

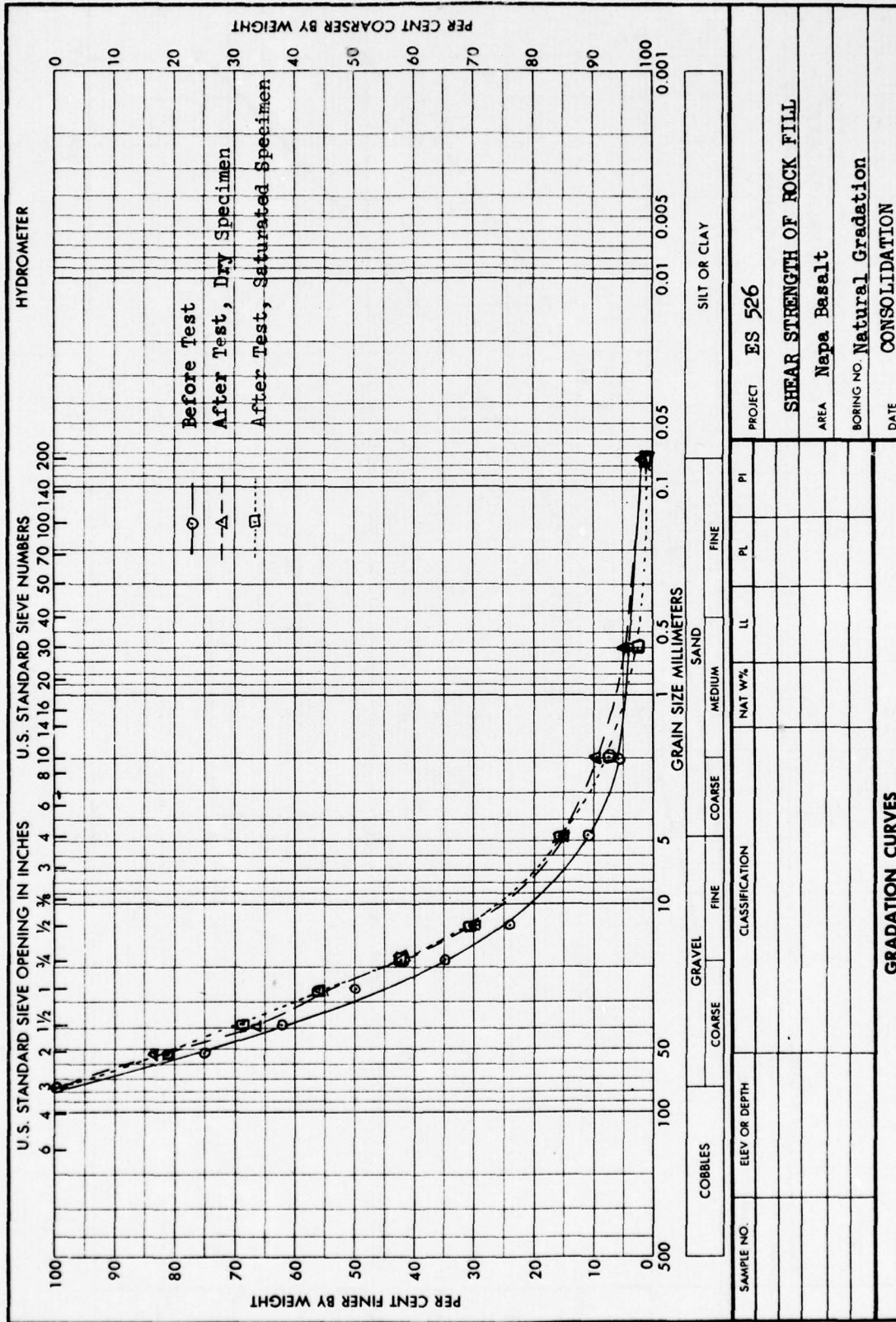
After Test:  
 Water content,  $w_f$  5.1%  
 Void Ratio,  $e_f$  .310  
 Saturation,  $S_f$  99%

Specimen Diameter 12.0 in.  
 Specimen Height 9.98 in.  
 Specific Gravity 2.86



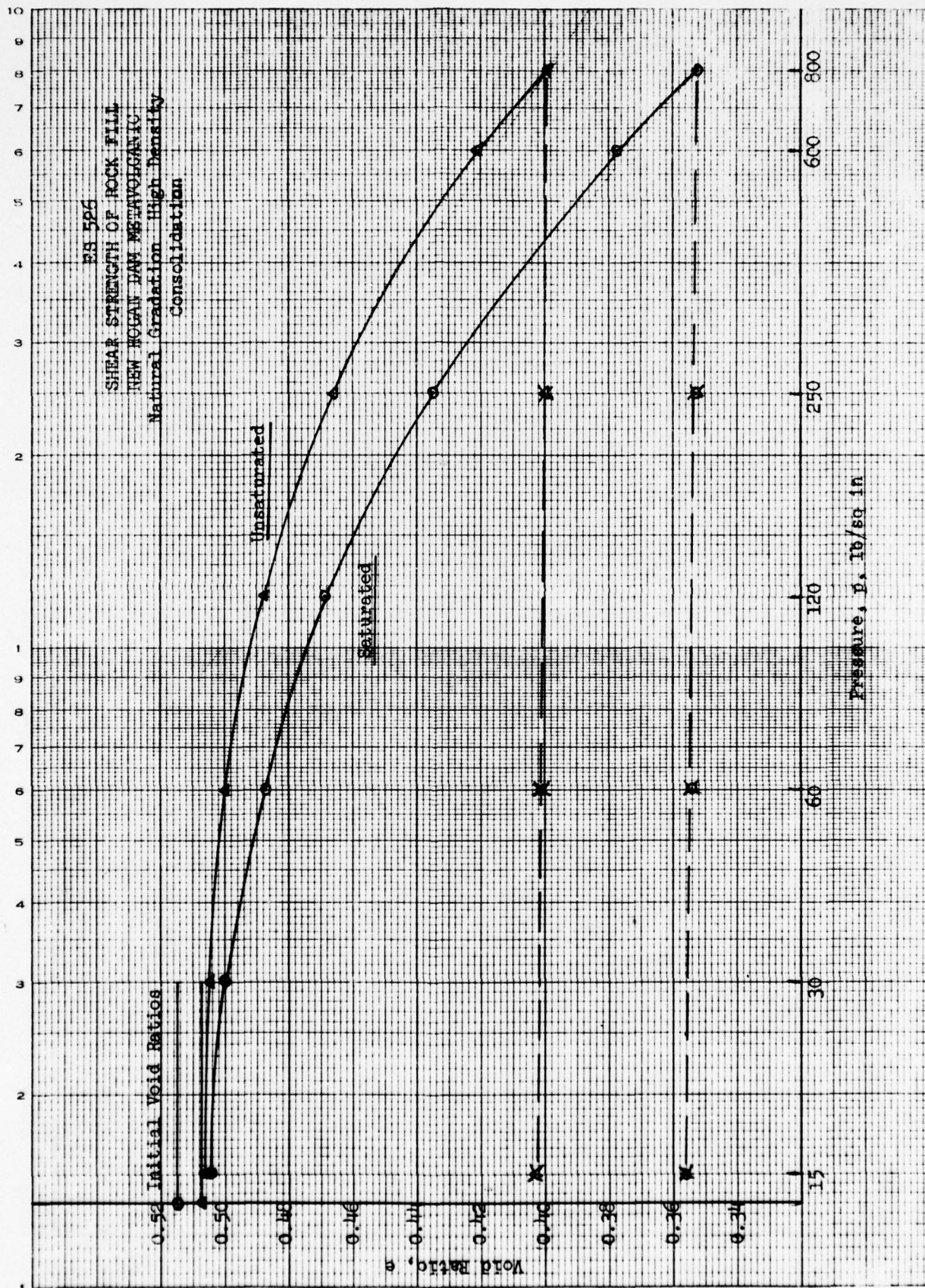
ES 526  
 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
 NAPA BASALT  
 Natural Gradation  
 High Density  
 CONSOLIDATION



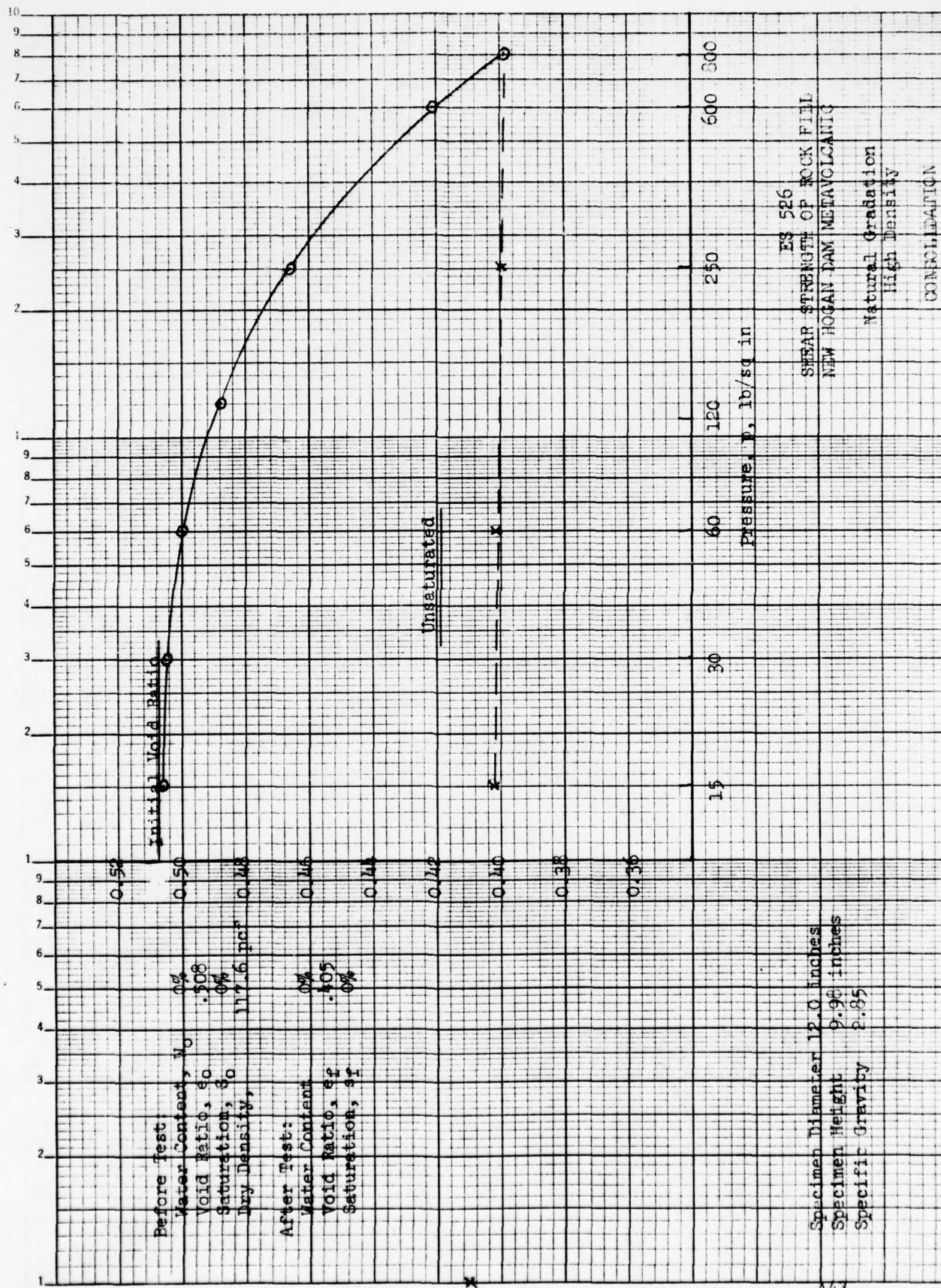


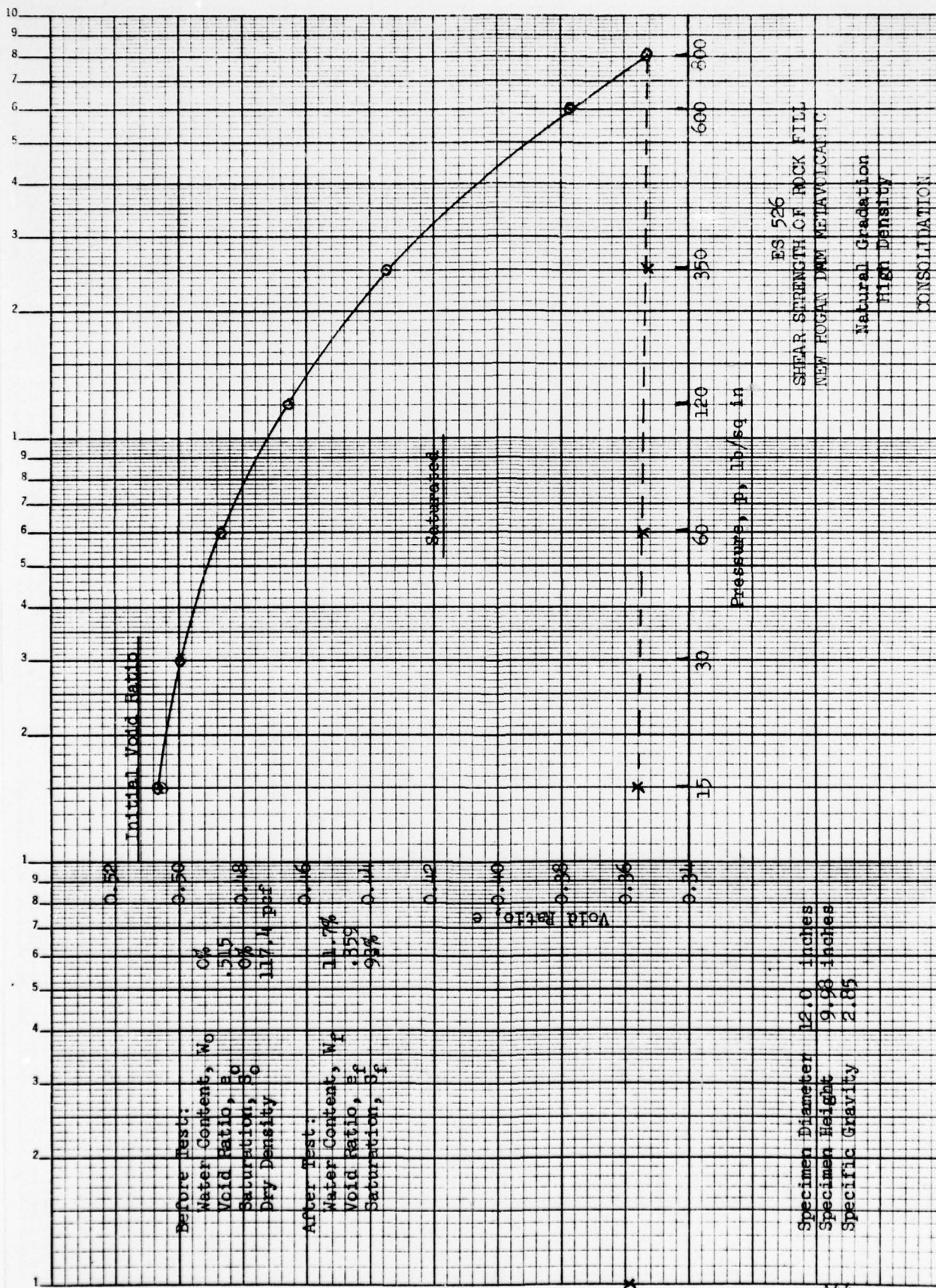
U.S. STANDARD SIEVE OPENING IN INCHES  
 U.S. STANDARD SIEVE NUMBERS  
 PER CENT FINER BY WEIGHT  
 PER CENT COARSER BY WEIGHT  
 GRAIN SIZE MILLIMETERS  
 COBBLES  
 GRAVEL  
 SAND  
 SILT OR CLAY  
 PROJECT  
 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
 AREA  
 BORING NO  
 DATE  
 CONSOLIDATION  
 REPLACES WES FORM NO 1241, SEP 1962, WHICH IS OBSOLETE  
 (TRANSLUCENT)  
 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1963 O1-708-128

2 CYCLES X 20 DIVISIONS PER INCH

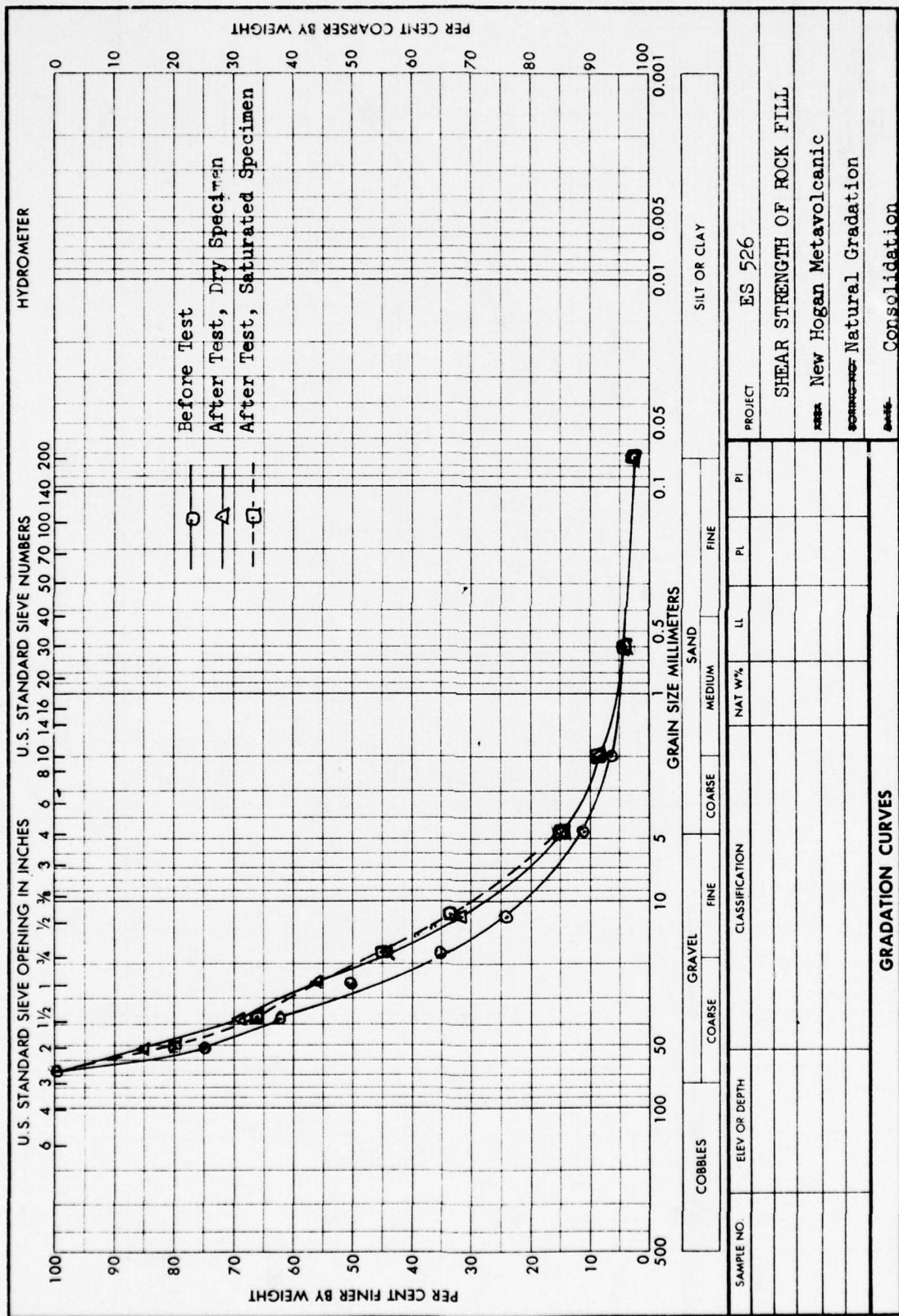








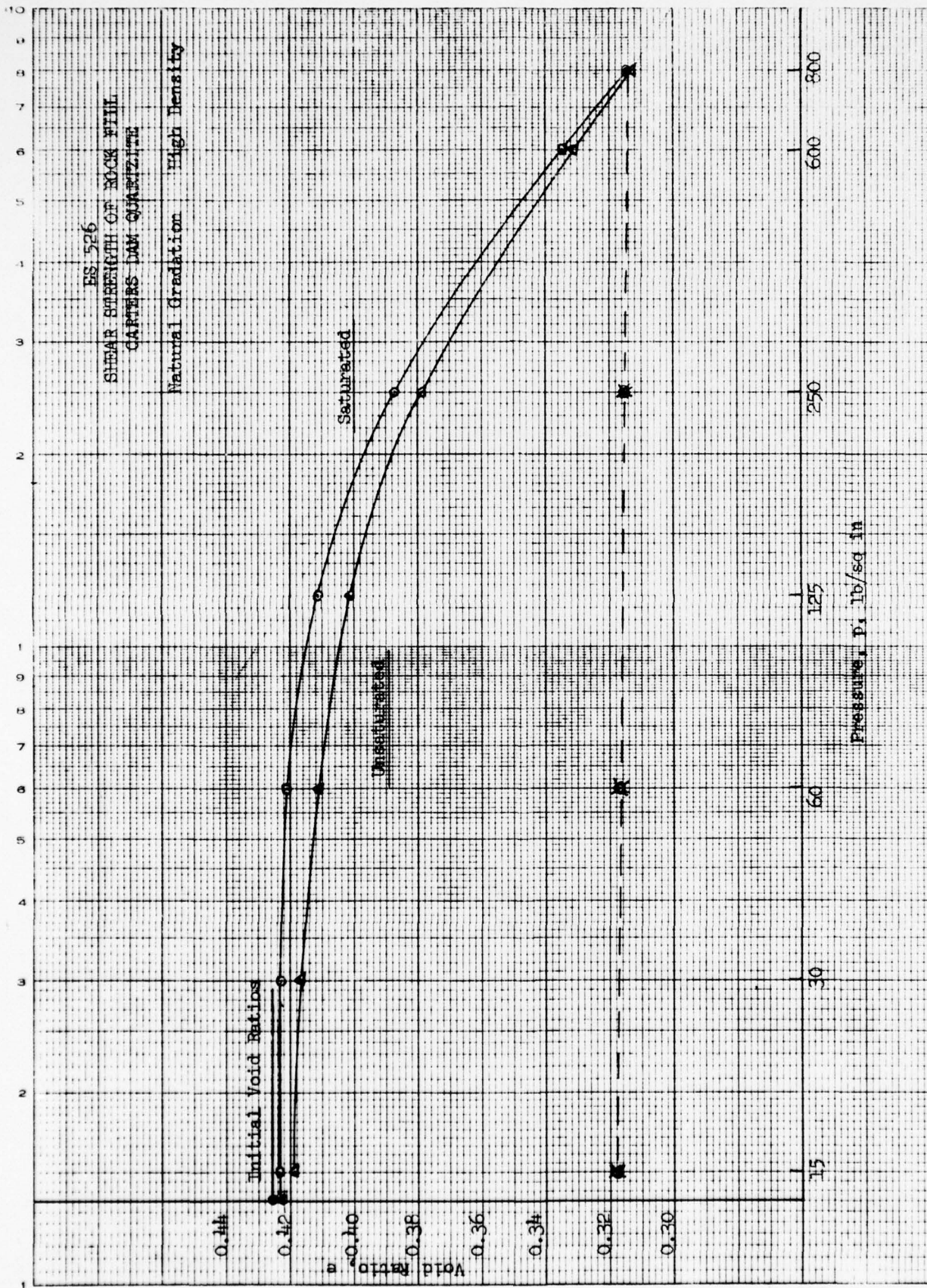




**ENG FORM 2087** REPLACES WES FORM NO. 1241, SEP. 1962, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. (TRANSLUCENT)

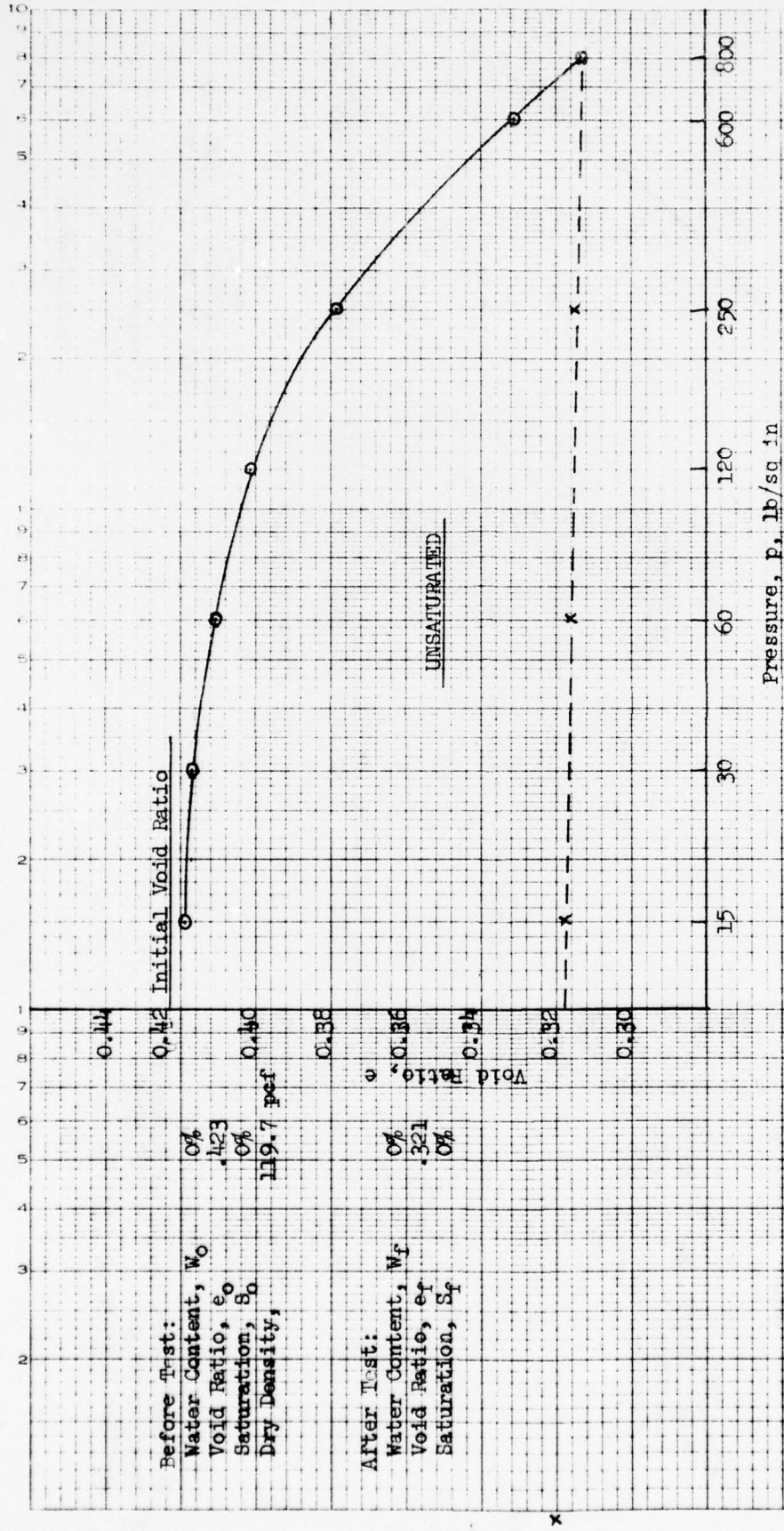
1 MAY 63

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 O-709-126





3 CYCLES X 10 DIVISIONS PER INCH



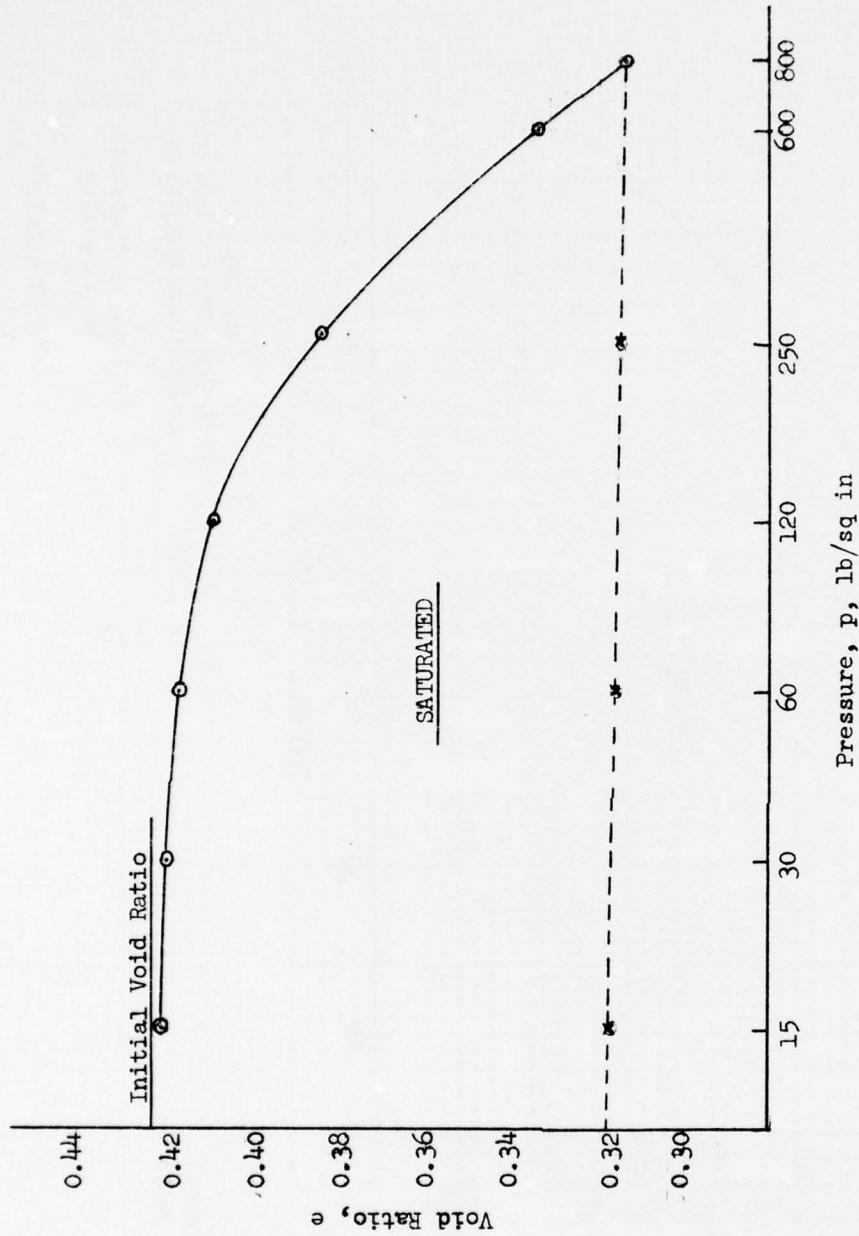
ES 526  
SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
CARTERS DAM QUARTZITE  
Natural Gradation  
High Density  
CONSOLIDATION

Specimen Diameter 12.0 inches  
Specimen Height 9.98 inches  
Specific Gravity 2.73

Before Test:  
 Water Content,  $W_o$  0%  
 Void Ratio,  $e_o$  .426  
 Saturation,  $S_o$  0%  
 Dry Density,  $\gamma_d$  119.5pcf

After Test:  
 Water Content,  $W_f$  10.5%  
 Void Ratio,  $e_f$  .321  
 Saturation,  $S_f$  90%

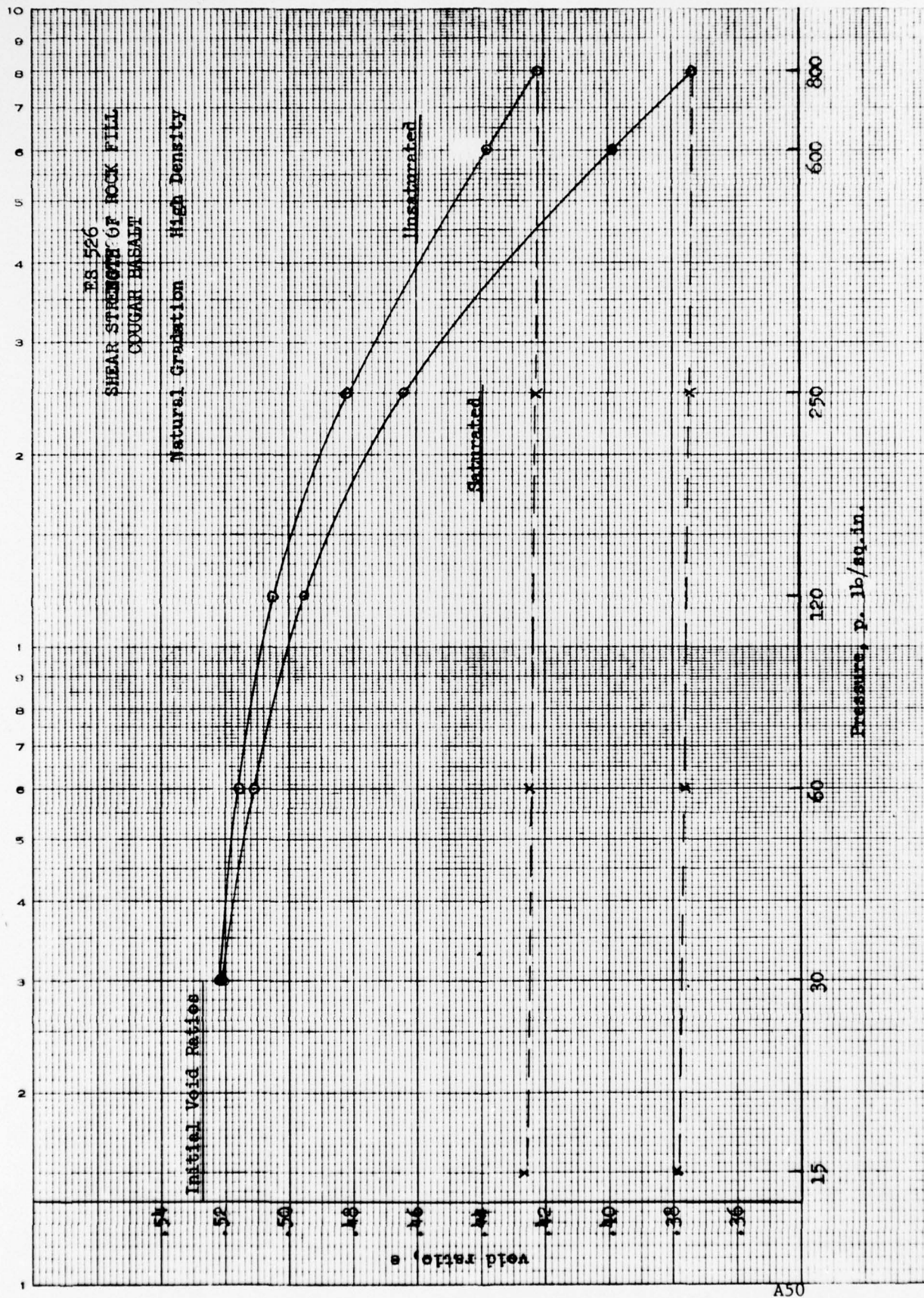
Specimen Diameter 12.0 inches  
 Specimen Height 9.98 inches  
 Specific Gravity 2.73



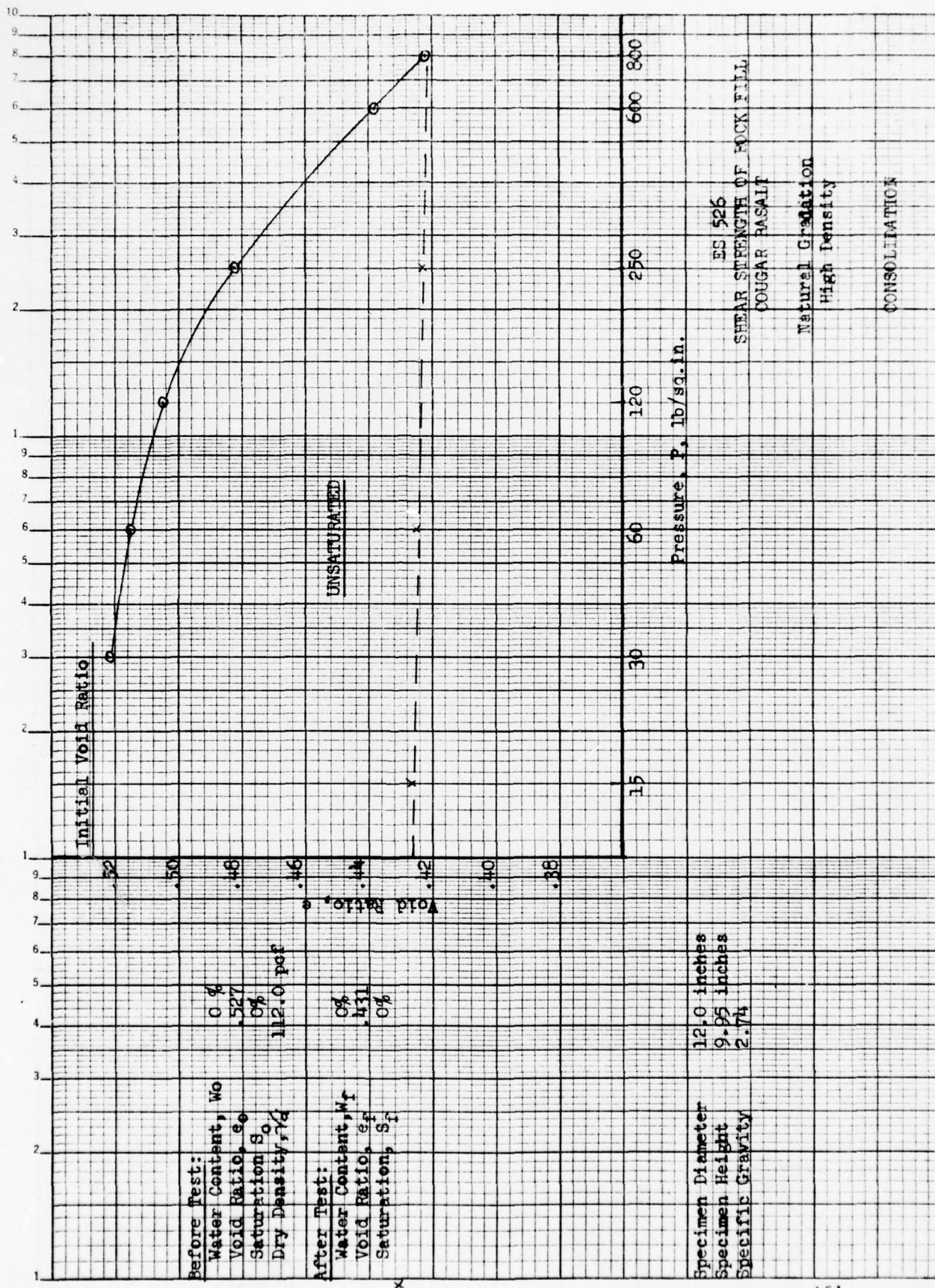
ES 526  
 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
 CARTERS DAM QUARTZITE  
 Natural Gradation  
 High Density  
 CONSOLIDATION

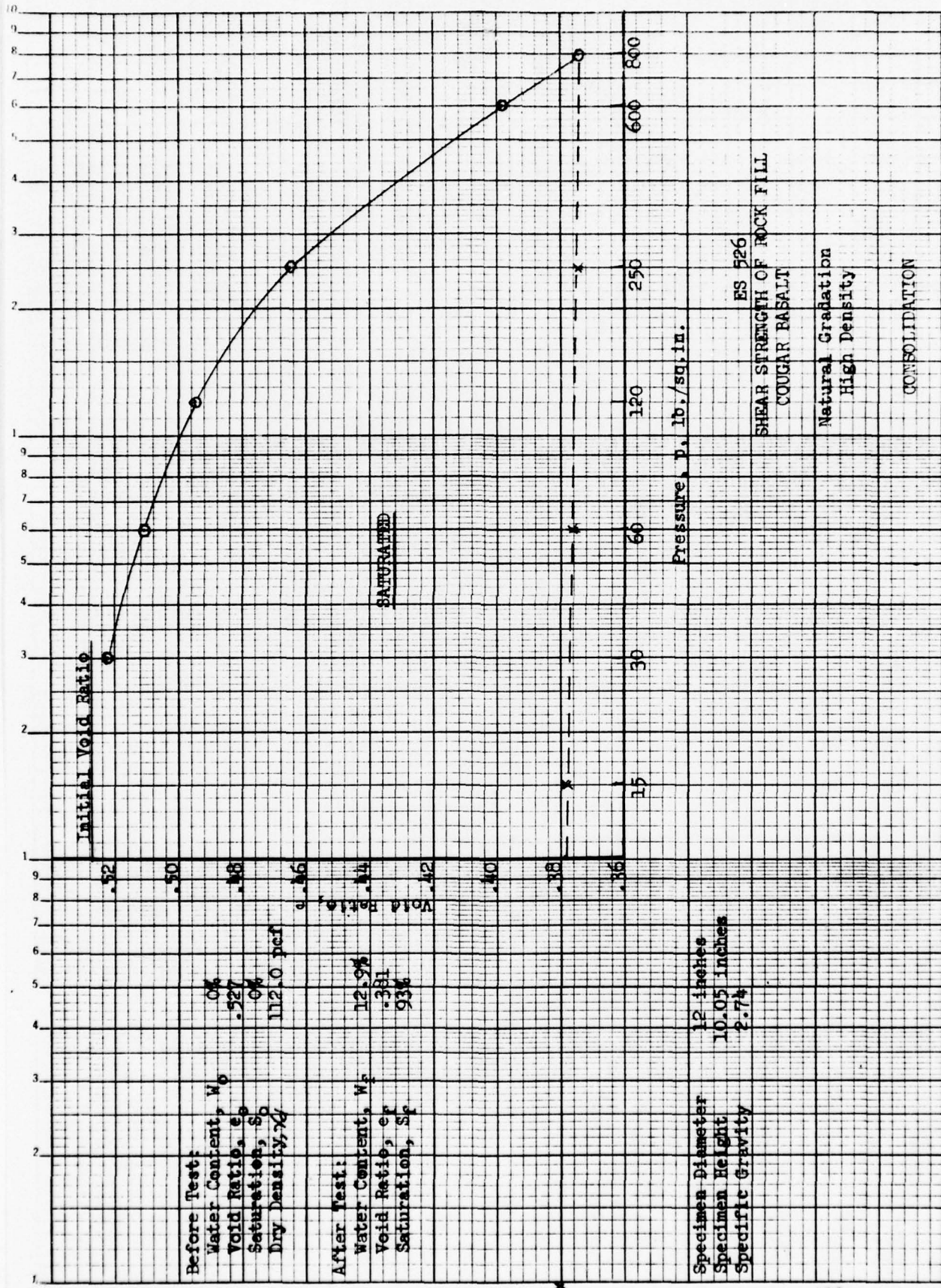




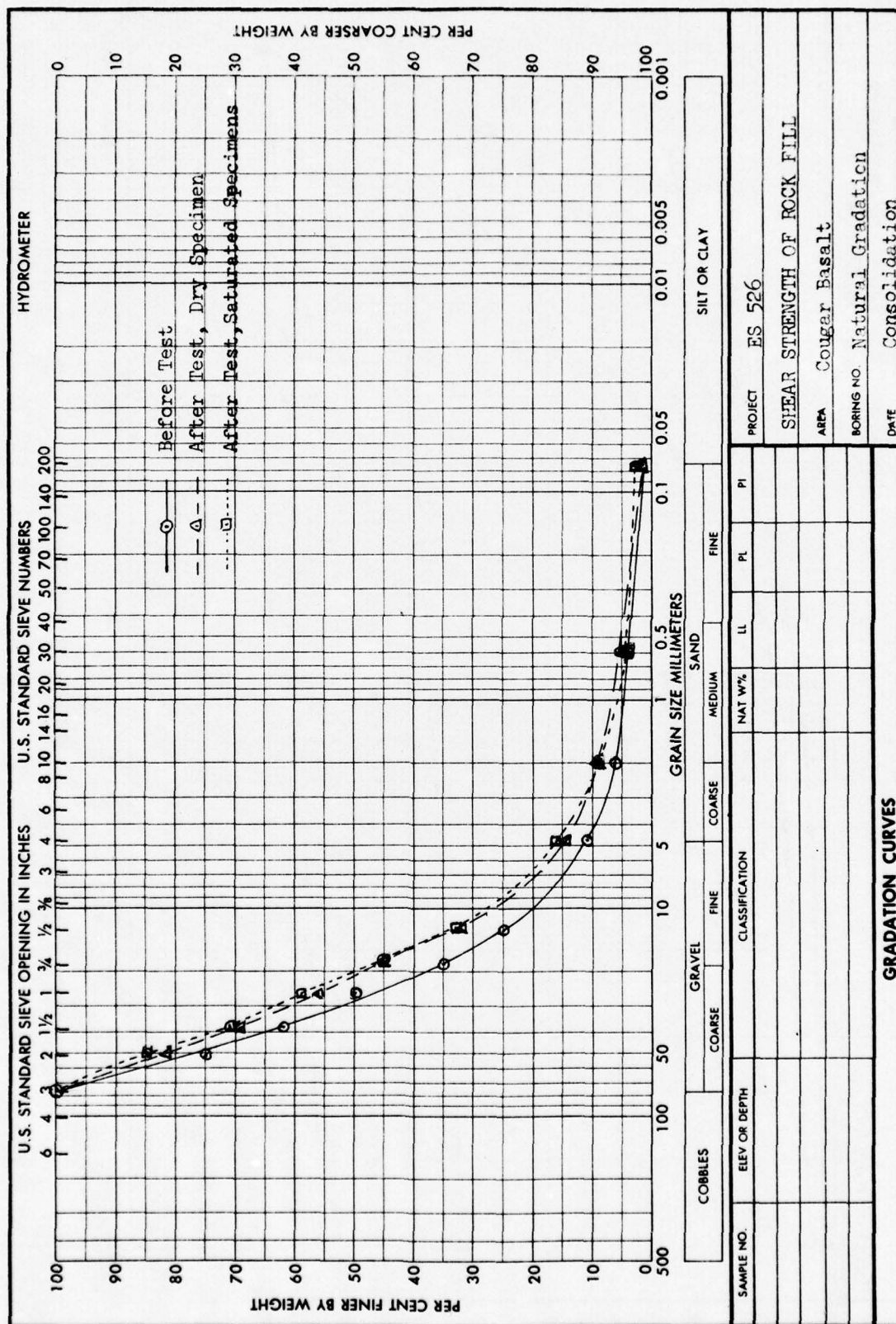










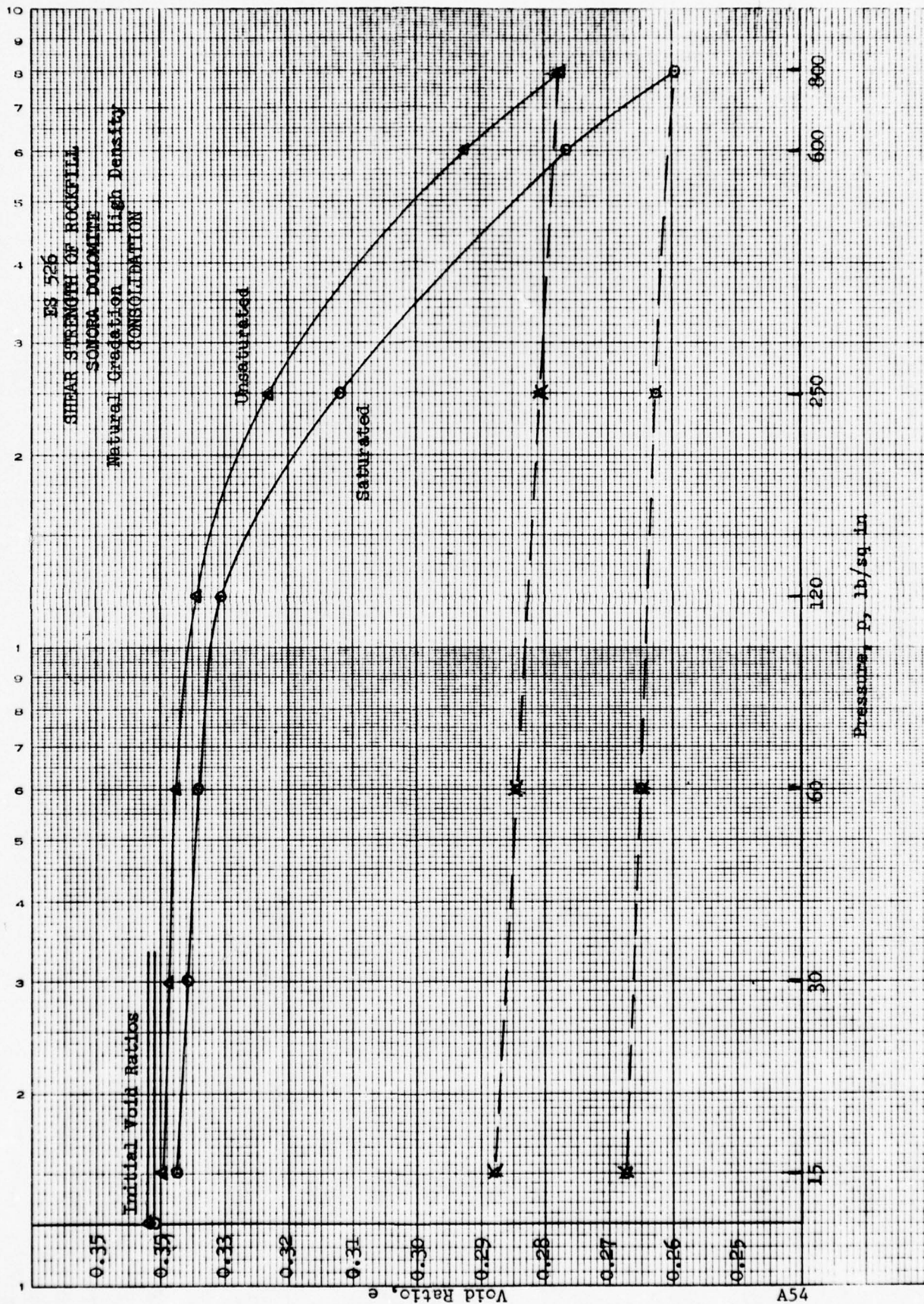


U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1963 OF 708-126

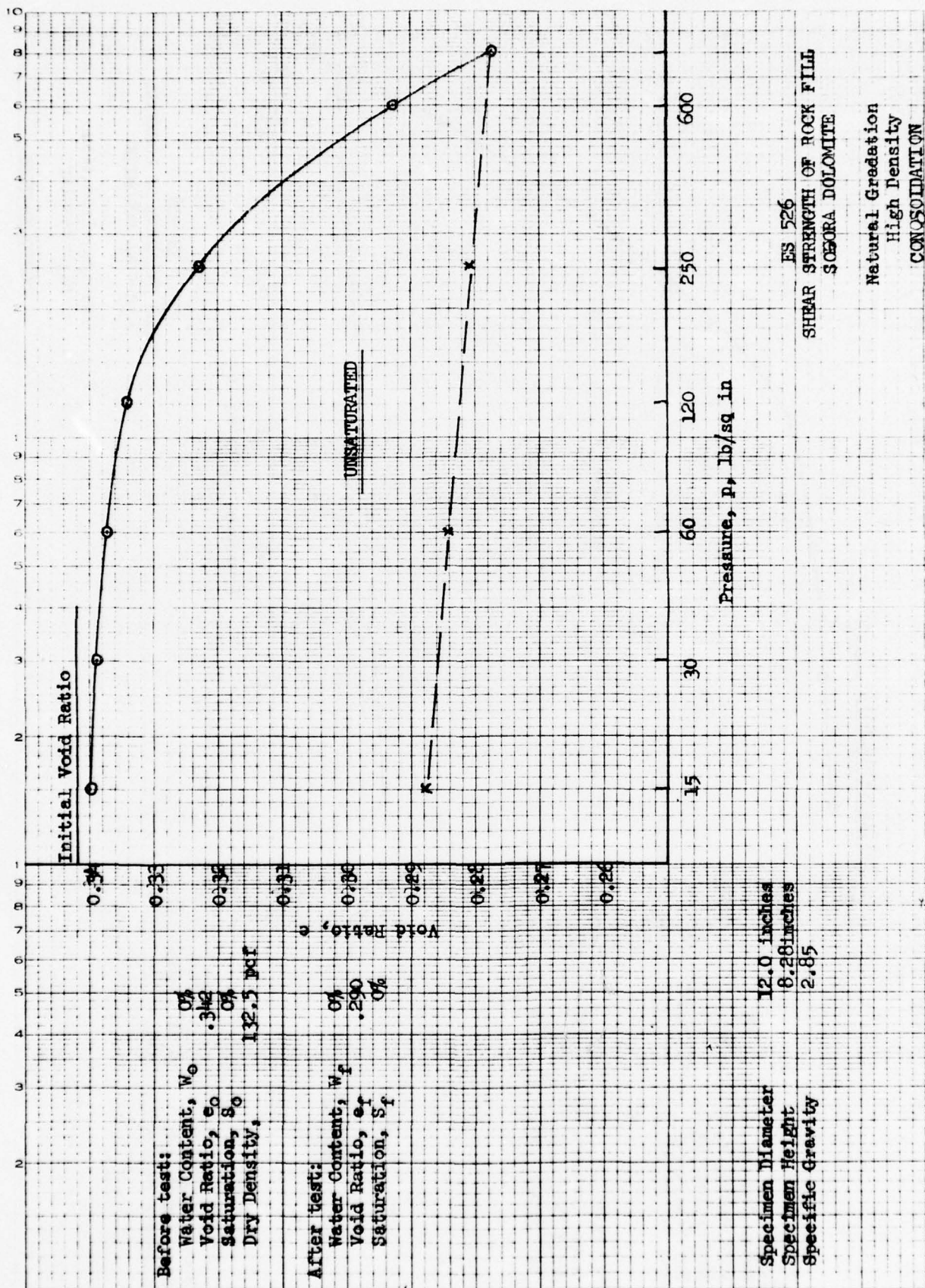
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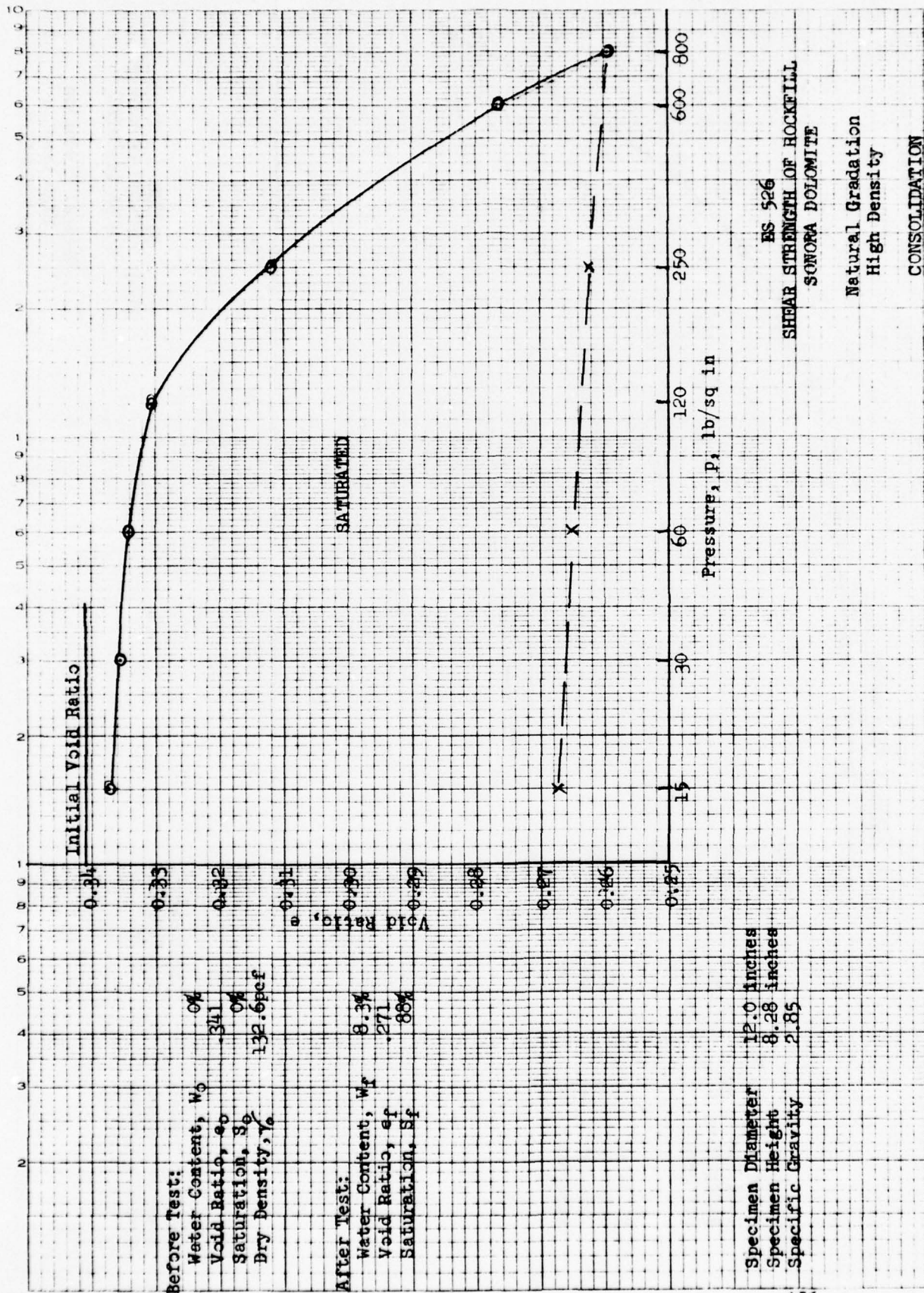
REPLACES WES FORM NO. 1241, SEP 1962, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

ENG FORM 2087  
1 MAY 63



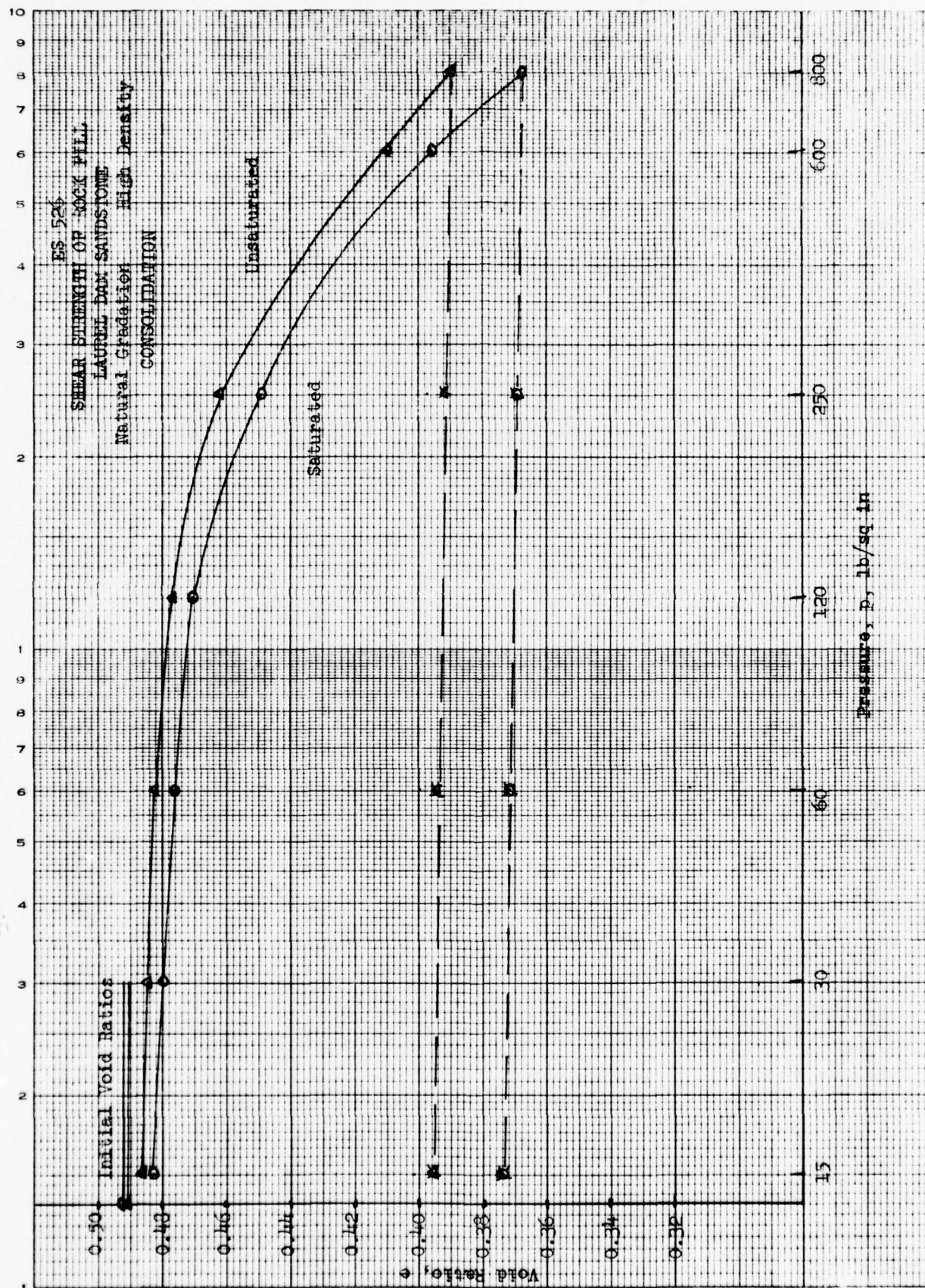




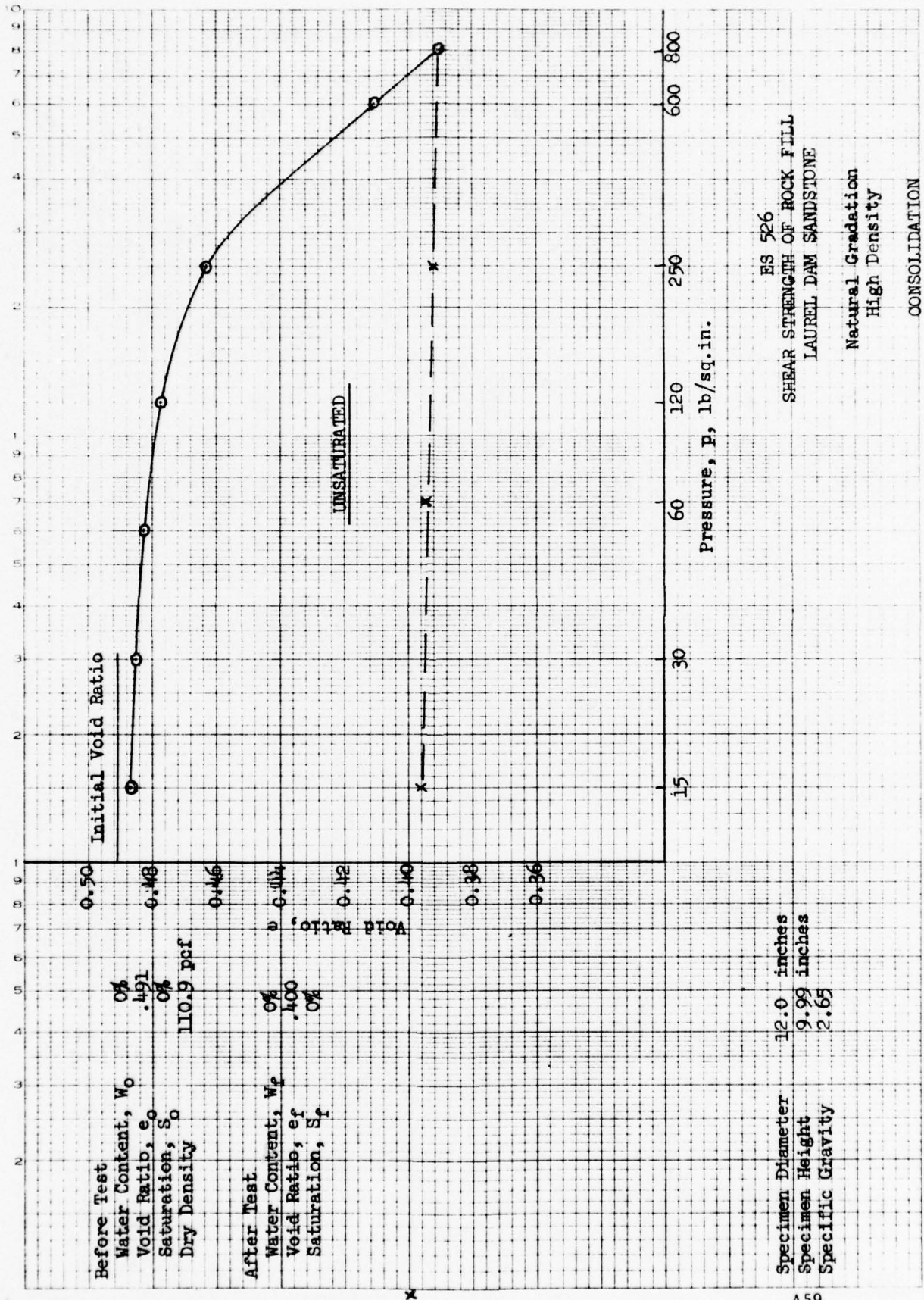


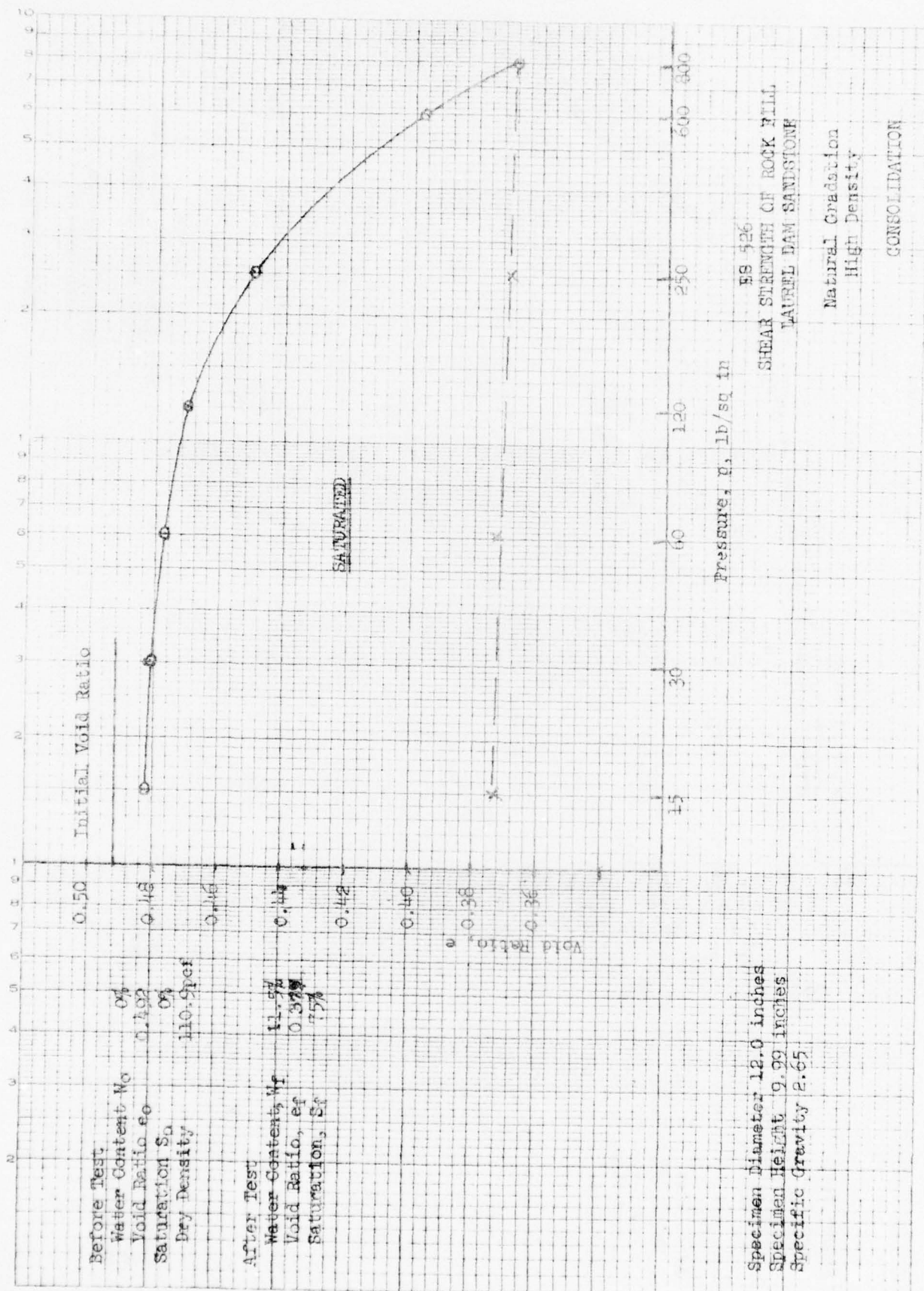




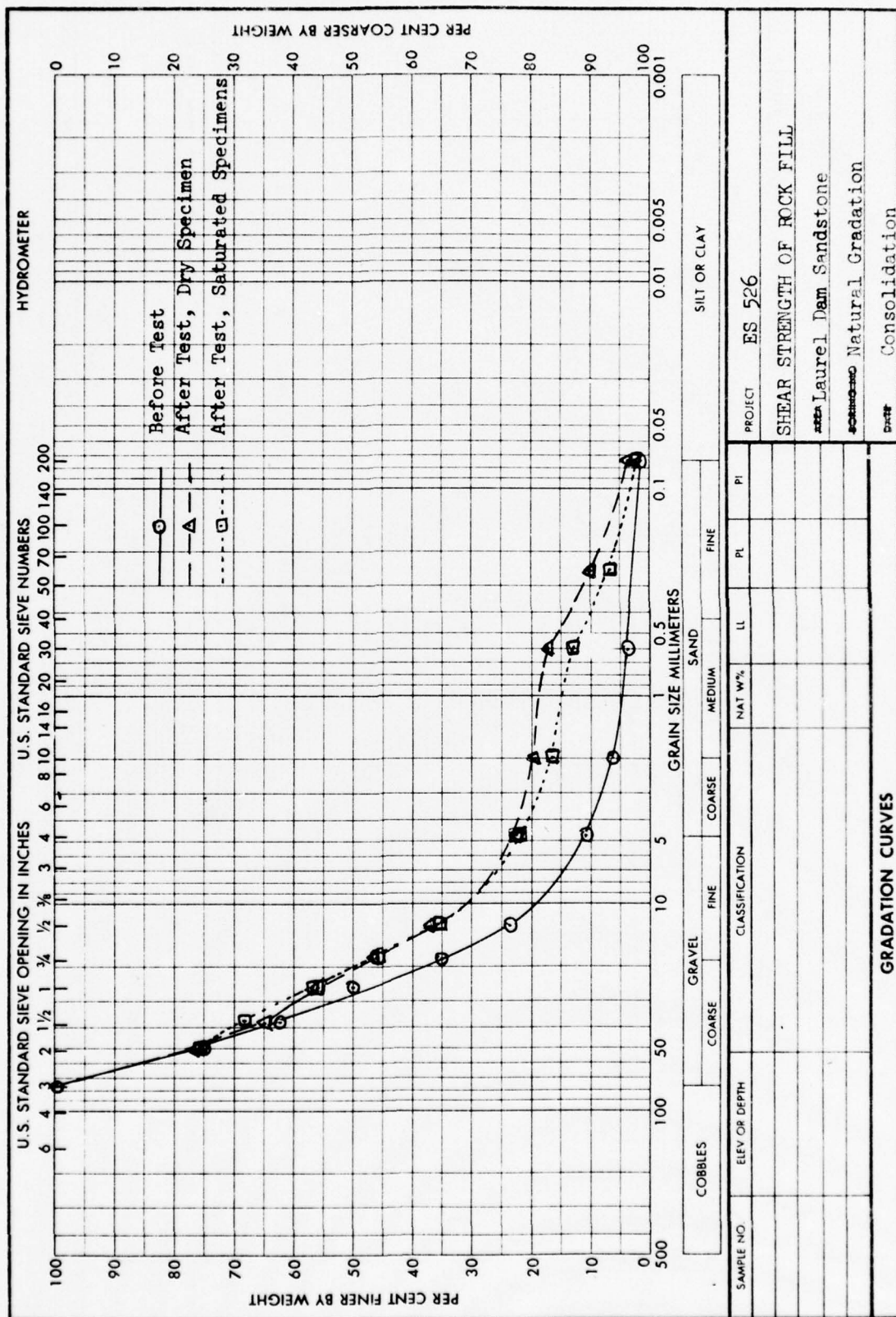


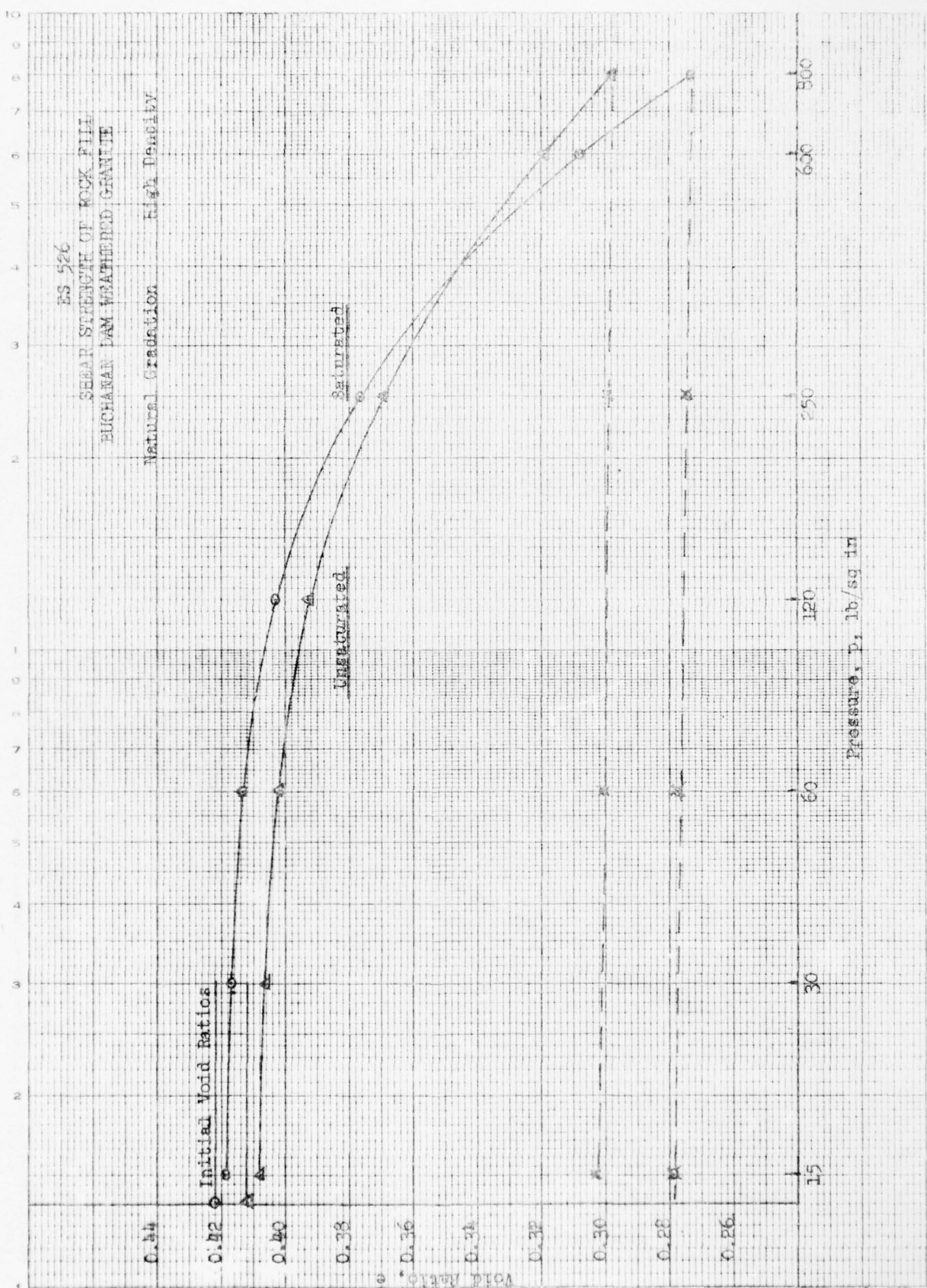


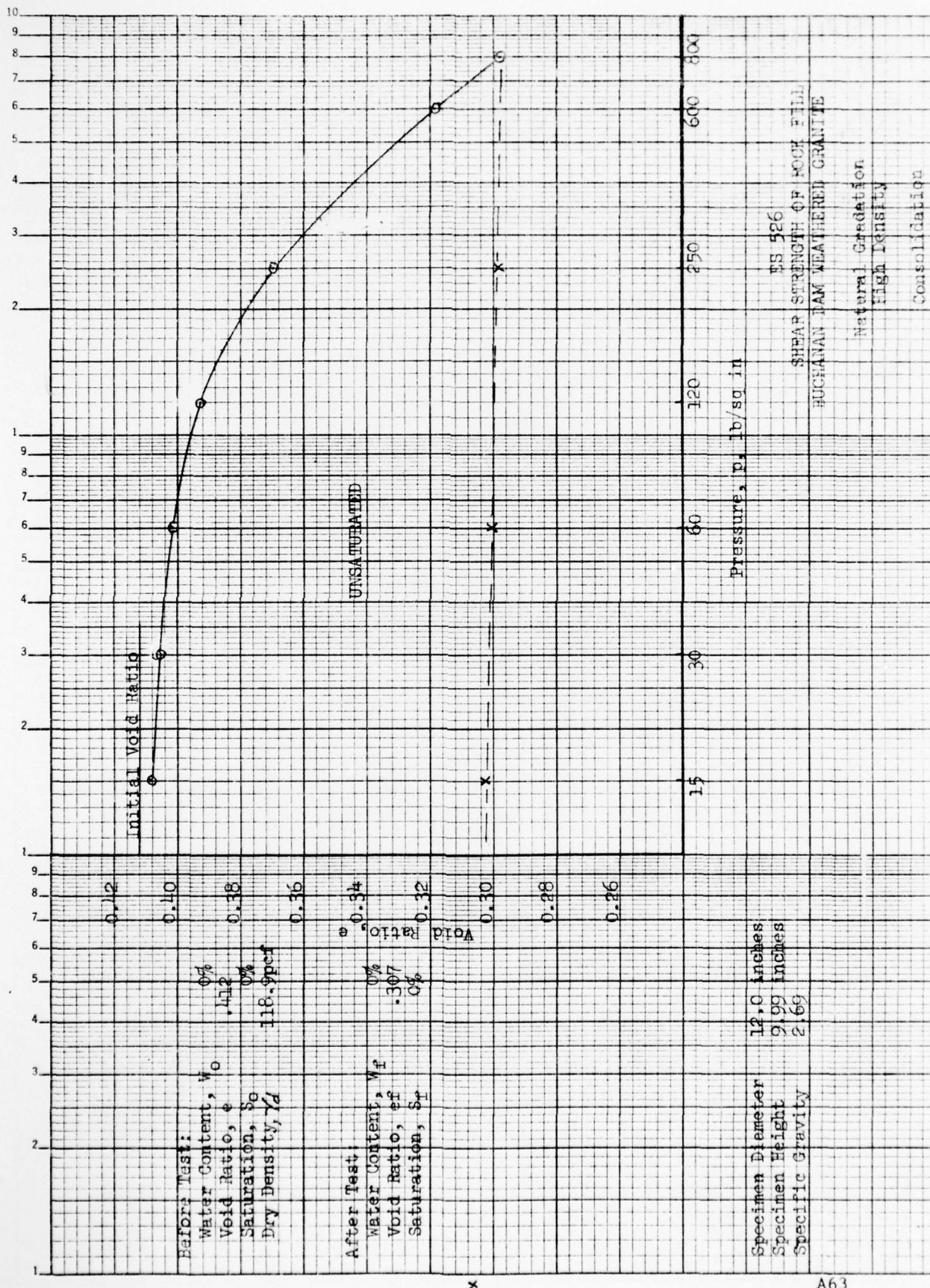




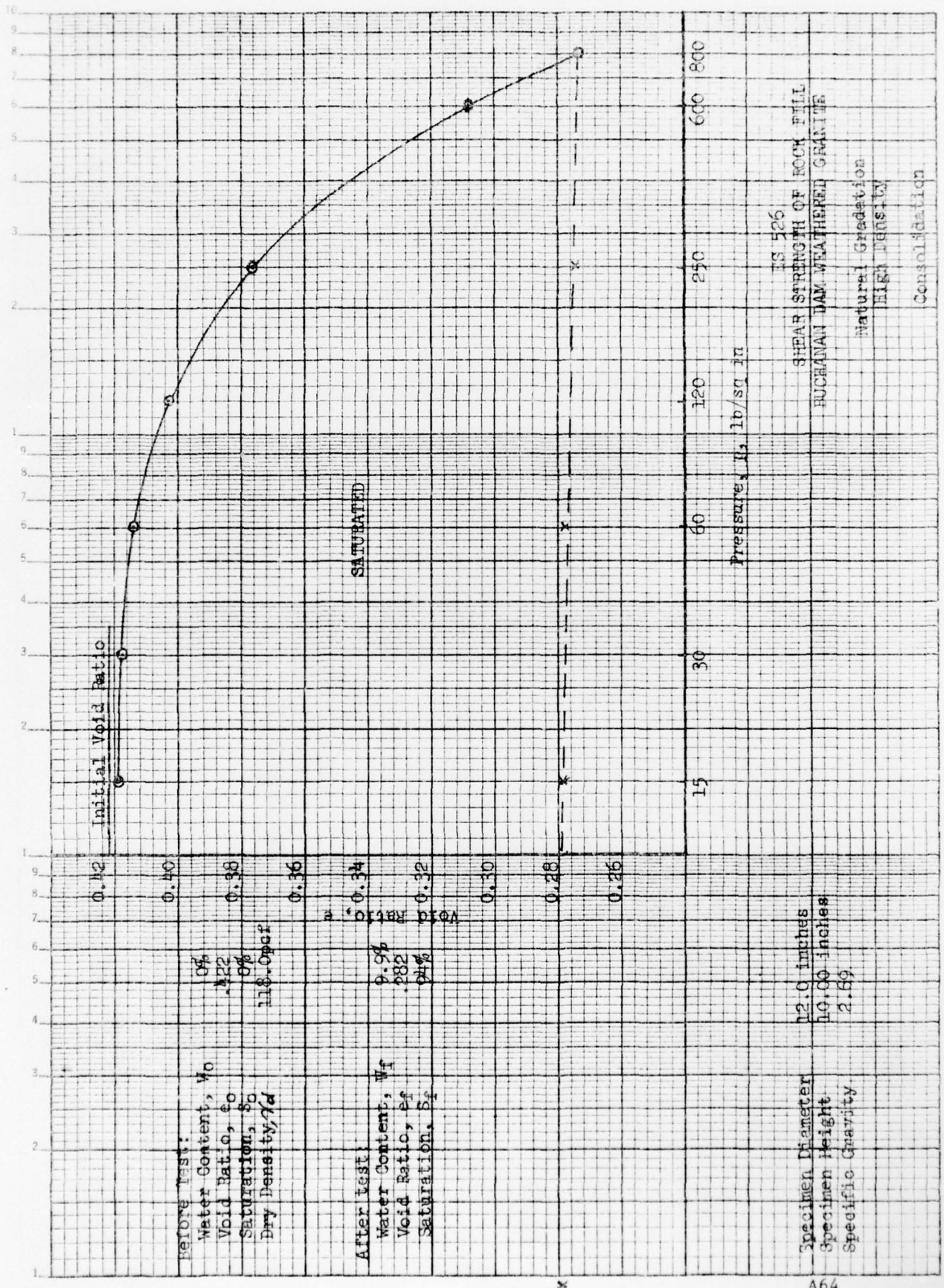




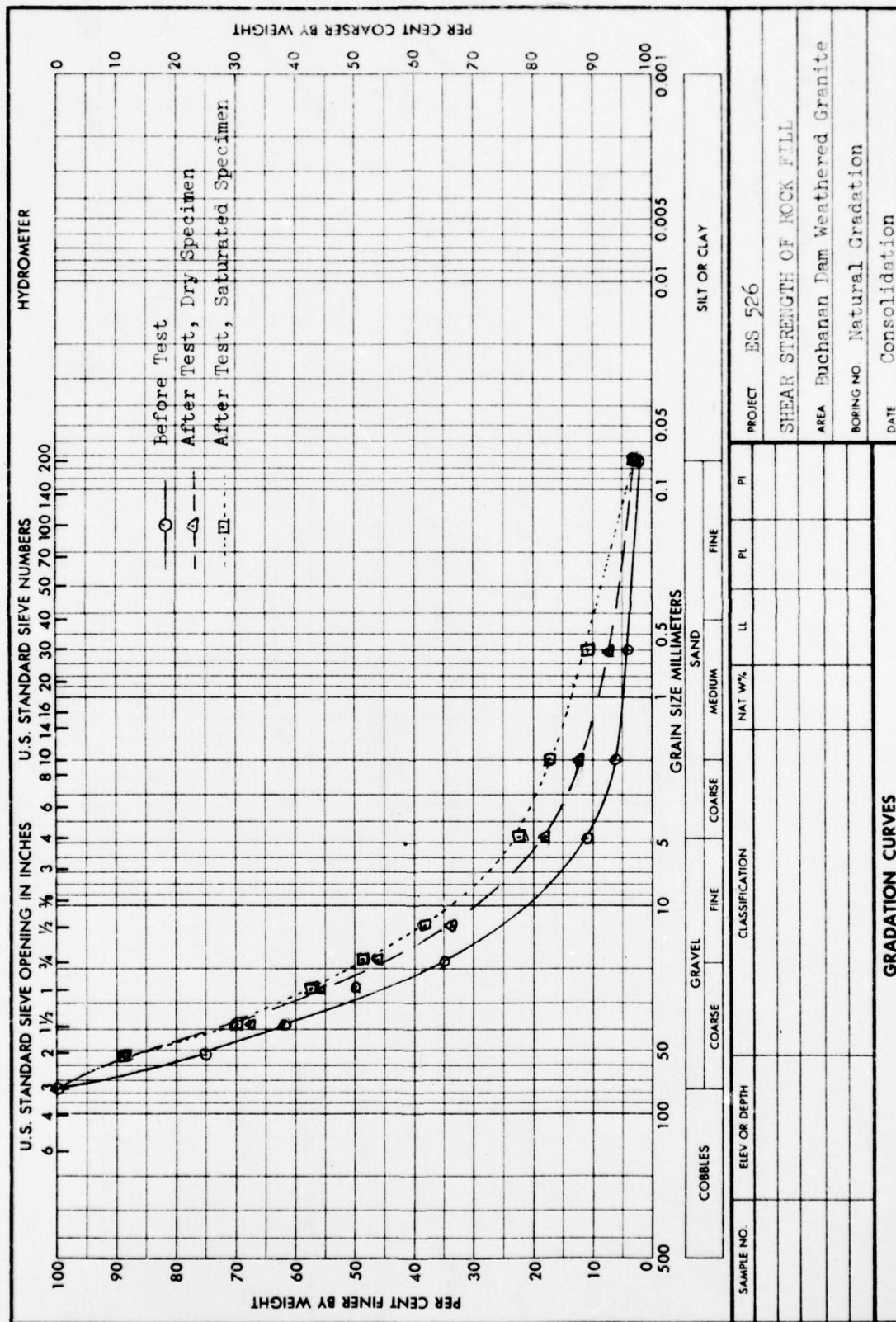












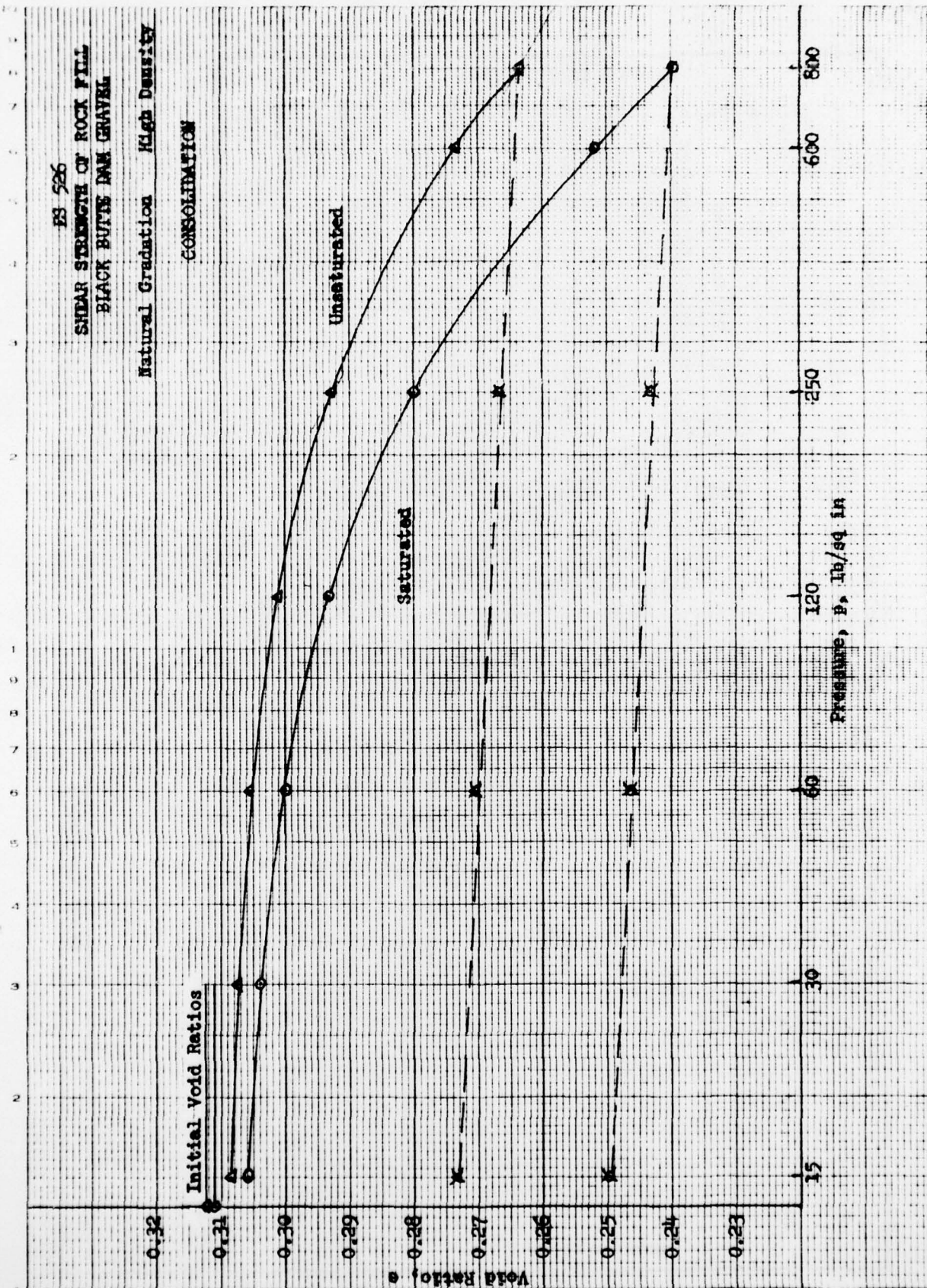
ENG FORM 2087

(TRANSLUCENT)

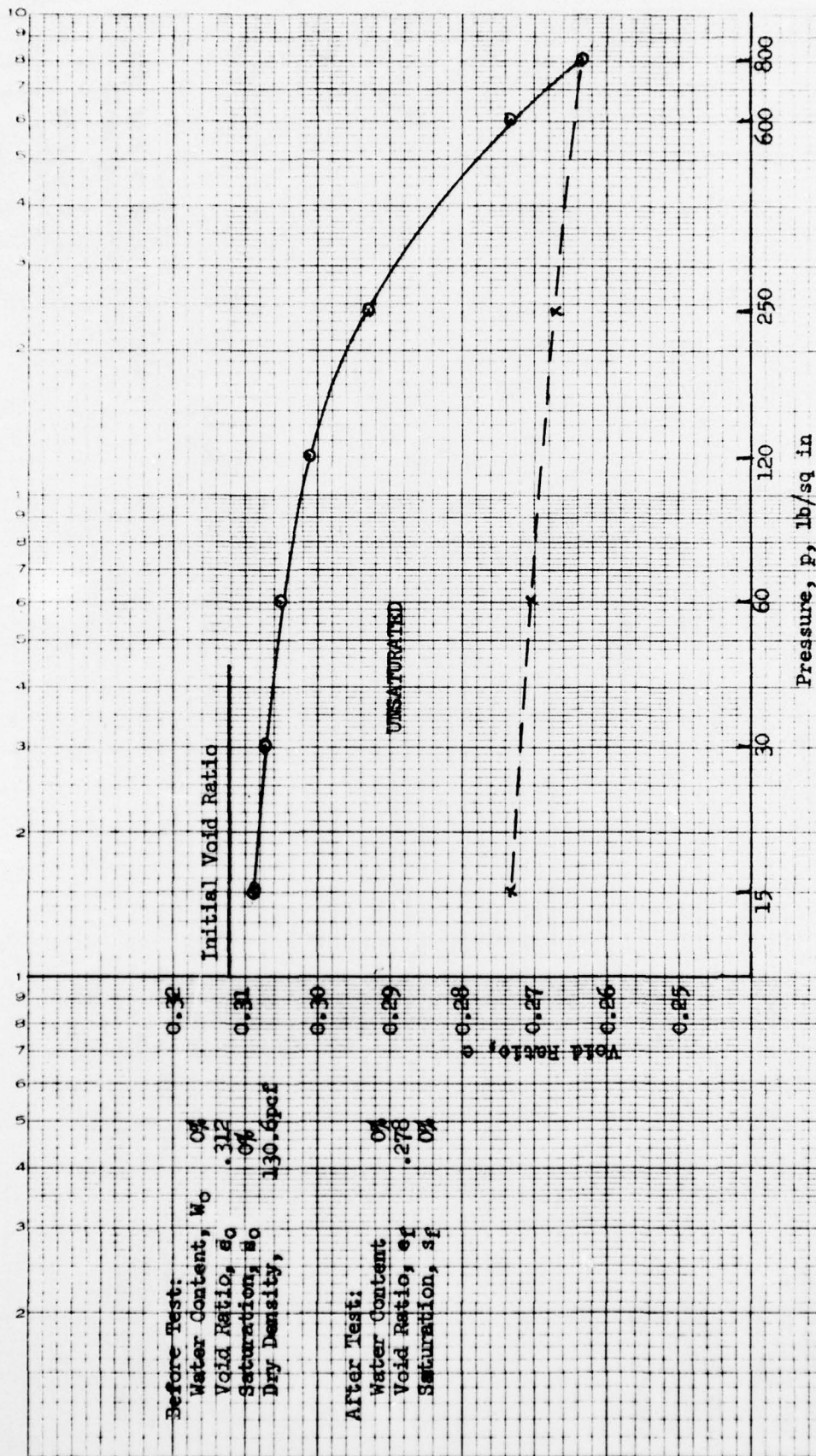
ES 526  
 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
 BLACK BUTTE DAM GRAVEL

Natural Gradation High Density

CONSOLIDATION



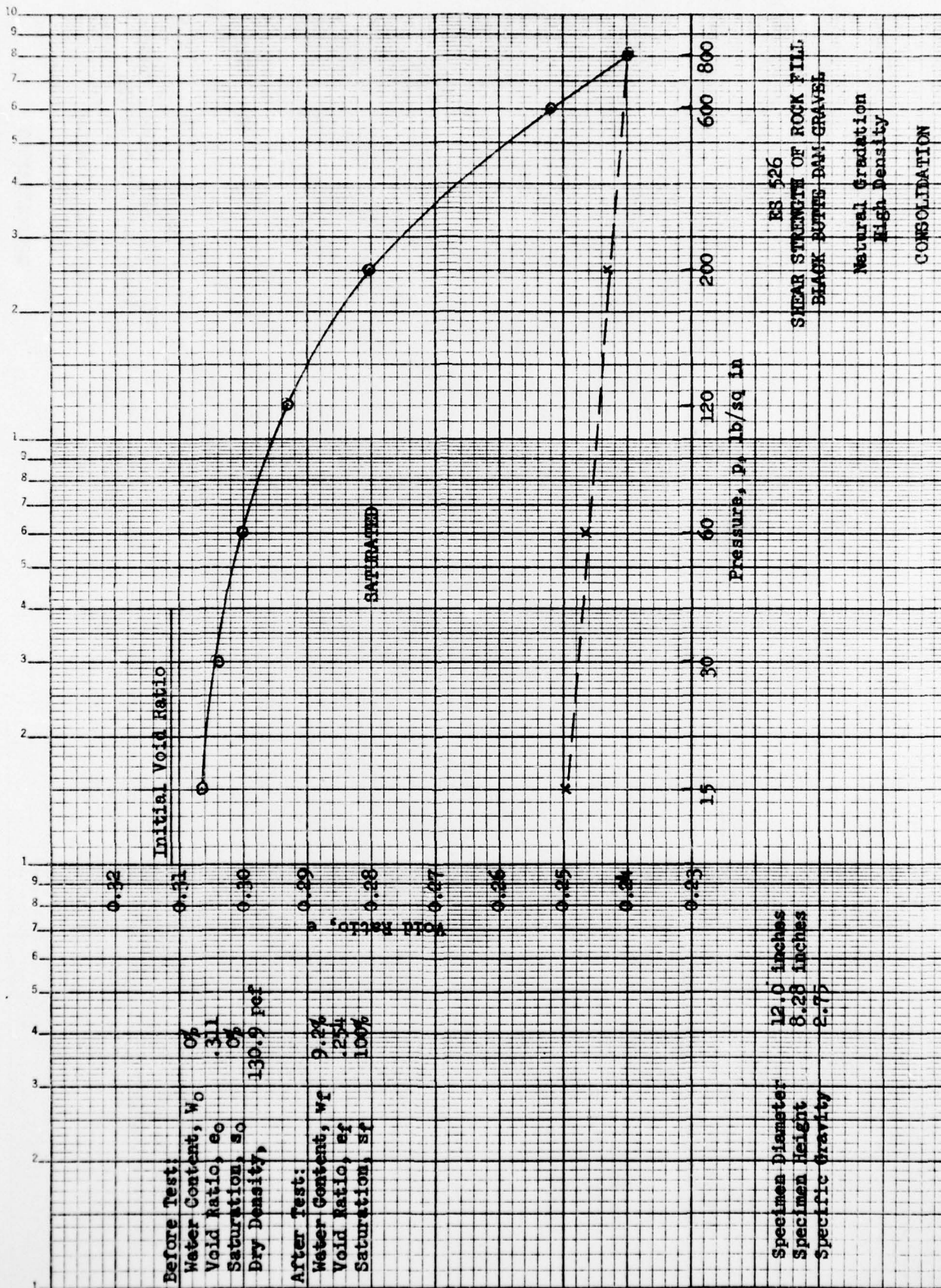




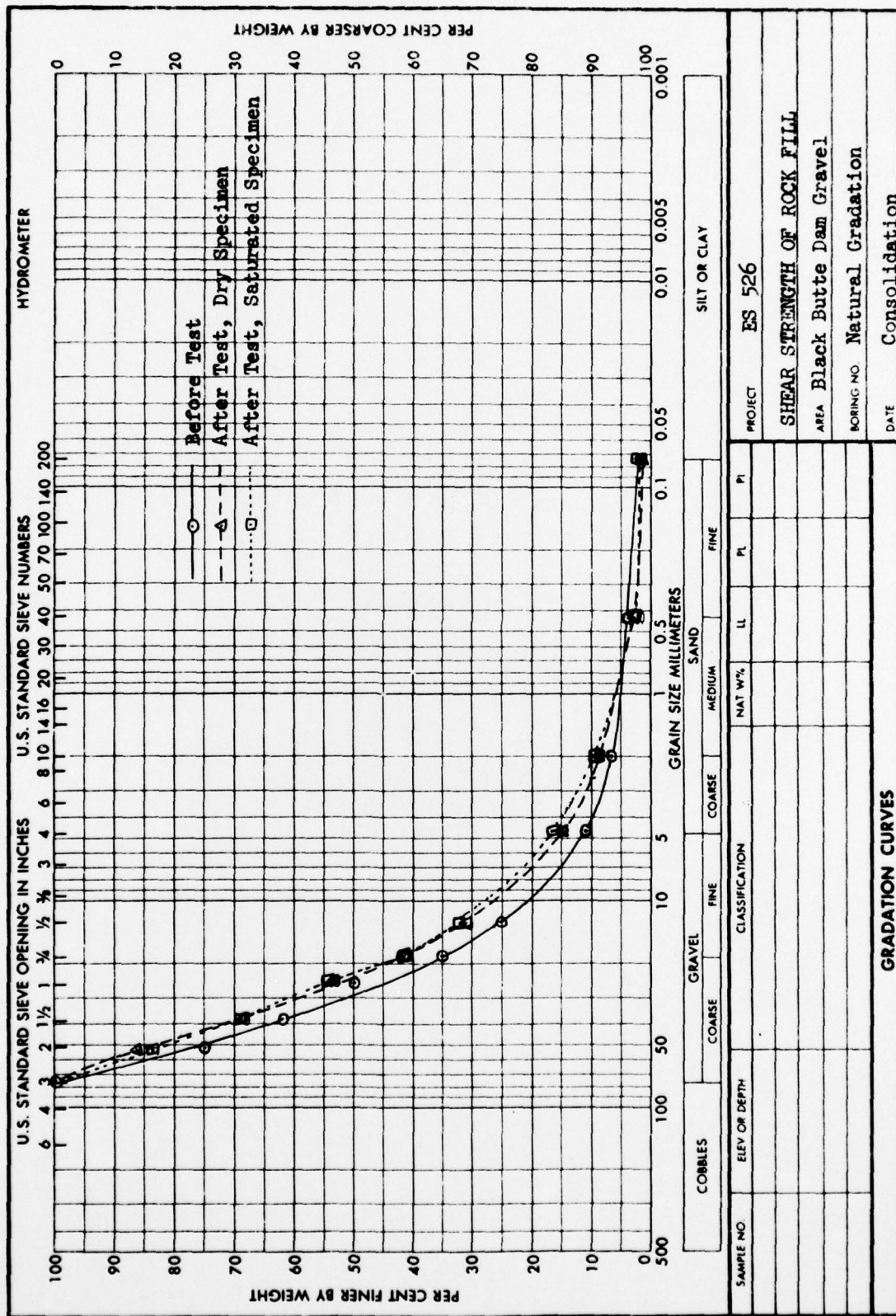
ES 526  
 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCK FILL  
 BLACK BUTTE DAM GRAVEL

Natural Gradation  
 High Density  
 CONSOLIDATION

Specimen Diameter 12.0 inches  
 Specimen Height 8.26 inches  
 Specific Gravity 2.75







APPENDIX B  
TESTING PROCEDURES

## TRIAXIAL TEST APPARATUS

1. High Pressure 12-in. Diameter. This unit accomodates a specimen 12 in. in diameter by 27.7 inches high, which can be tested at a maximum chamber pressure of 500 psi. The testing machine is capable of producing an axial load of 200,000 pounds. Specimens are loaded axially through a 4-in. diameter piston terminating in an 8-in. diameter platen. The piston housing incorporates linear ball bushings and is sealed from the chamber by a teflon ring. Specimen is drained by a 3-in. diameter porous bronze plate set into the specimen cap and base. Drainage lines between the base and cap and the burettes mounted on the control panel consist of 3/8-in. nylon tubing with 3/8-in. ball valves and couplers. The specimen is connected to a 5-in. diameter lucite saturation reservoir and a 3500-ml. metal burette (plate B-1). Separation of the reservoir and burette is accomplished by a three-way valve. For seepage saturation, the bottom of the specimen was connected to the reservoir and the top of the specimen to the burette. During consolidation and shear, the top and bottom of the specimen are interconnected with this burette. The chamber fluid is linked to two burettes having a capacity of 3500-ml. each. To apply chamber pressure low-pressure air control was accomplished by means of a Norgren 125-psi bleed-type regulator. Chamber pressures were indicated on gages having ranges of 0 to 15, 60 and 150 psi. High chamber pressure was controlled by two needle valves and two metering valves with pressure indicated on 400- and 1000-psi test gages calibrated in divisions of 2 and 5 psi, respectively. There are two separate vacuum systems, each consisting of a vacuum pump, 15-psi vacuum gage, and a mercury switch for automatic control.



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2. Preparation of Specimens. Four separate equal weight batches of air-dried soil were prepared for each specimen. For the high-density specimens, a rubber-lined 12-in. diameter mold was placed over the pedestal and membrane then secured to the triaxial base which was bolted to the Syntron VP-240 vibration table. Soil was placed in the mold with a scoop and positioned by hand. After two batches of soil were placed in the mold (first layer), a surcharge equal to 2 psi was placed on the soil surface and vibration started. Vibration continued for 8 to 10 min. with periodic observations taken to determine the height change. A second layer was placed and vibrated in the same manner. Low density specimens were also batched in four equal portions. Soil was placed in the same manner except that after the mold was filled with soil it was not vibrated. The cap was placed on the soil and sealed to the membrane.

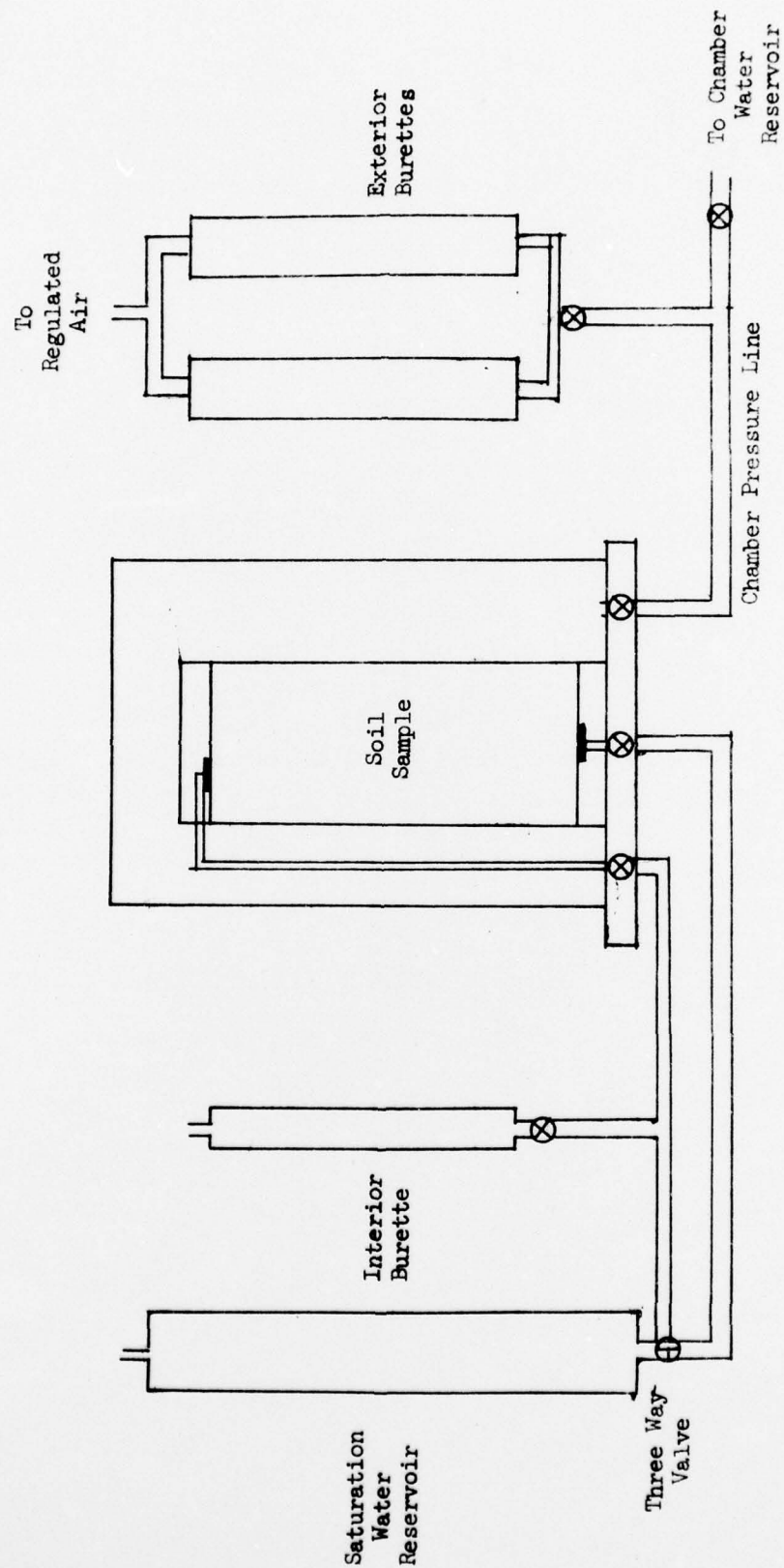
3. A vacuum of about 0.9 atmosphere was applied to the soil, the mold removed, and the height and circumference measured. A second membrane was placed over the specimen. Membrane thickness varied from 0.048 to 0.063 in. Specimens tested at lateral pressures of 300 and 400 psi had strips of 0.020-in. thick low-density polyethylene between the membranes. These strips were 2-1/8-in. wide and extended the full height of the specimens.

4. Saturation Procedure. After the apparatus was completely assembled and placed on the testing machine, the chamber was filled with water. Saturation was accomplished using deaired water by the seepage method using a differential vacuum. Initially, a vacuum of 14.5 psi was applied at the top of the specimen and 14.4 psi applied on the reservoir connected to the

bottom of the specimen, plate 1. This differential was gradually increased as needed to maintain a steady flow. Water was allowed to drain from the top of the specimen until the emergence of air ceased or became infrequent. This condition was usually attained when about 1500 to 2000 ml. of water had passed through the specimen. Saturation time varied from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours. Height as well as volume changes, were noted during saturation. After saturation, the vacuum was slowly decreased and the chamber pressure correspondingly increased until a value of 15 psi was attained. This chamber pressure was maintained for not less than 2 hours, and in most instances overnight, before consolidating at the test pressure.

5. Isotropic Consolidation Procedure. In order to minimize the possibility of membrane punctures, the consolidating chamber pressures were applied slowly. The rate of pressure increase was about 30 psi per min. for specimens tested at 300 or 400 psi, but somewhat faster for the lower pressure specimens. After the application of the consolidating pressure, volume changes were recorded by the burette connected to both the top and bottom of the specimen. A check on volume change was by a burette connected to the chamber. Volume changes were noted until consolidation was complete. Generally, 30 to 60 minutes consolidation was required.

6. Compression Procedure. When the piston had been brought into contact with the specimen cap, the strain dial was read and the height of the specimen determined after correcting the dial reading for expansion due to chamber pressure apparatus expansion. Axial loading was applied at a



SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM  
OF TRIAXIAL APPARATUS

Showing Drainage and Chamber Pressure Systems



strain rate of 0.25 percent per min. Constant rate of strain was maintained with the aid of a strain pacer. Readings were taken frequently during the first 10 minutes and at 3- to 4-min. intervals thereafter. The axial load dial, axial strain dial, interior and exterior burettes were read simultaneously. Axial loading continued until at least two time increments beyond the peak deviator stress. At the last reading, the valves connected to the top and bottom of the specimen was closed to maintain the water content and the vacuum that was induced when the load and chamber pressures were relieved. This is essential to prevent slumping of the sample while the apparatus is being moved from the testing machine and dismantled. After the apparatus had been dismantled, the entire specimen was oven-dried for at least 16 hours. Unit weight, moisture and gradation were then determined.

7. Shape Factor Test. Test sample quantities varied from 20 particles of the 3-inch sieve fraction to 500 particles of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch sieve fraction. Particle sizes in this procedure refers to the passing sieve size. The volume of the sample was determined by: (1) soaking the rock in water overnight, (2) surface drying each particle, and (3) weighing the sample in air and in water. The particles were then counted and the average volume calculated by:

$$\bar{v} = \frac{(\text{Wt. in Air}) - (\text{Wt. in Water})}{\text{Number of Particles}}$$

The shape factor was calculated by:

$$r_v = \bar{v} \frac{6}{\pi d_r^3}$$

Where:

$r_v$  = Shape Factor

$\bar{v}$  = Average Particle Volume

$d_r$  = Passing Sieve Size

Values of  $r_v$  for each size were then used to determine a weighted average for the gravel portion of the sample.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) 6 SHEAR STRENGTH OF ROCKFILL, PHYSICAL PROPERTIES Engineering Study Number 526		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Final
7. AUTHOR(s) Melvin W. Cohen Dana D. Leslie		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS South Pacific Division Laboratory, SPDED-GL Post Office Box 37 Sausalito, CA 94965		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS ES 526 CWIS No. 31202
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Office, Chief of Engineers, DAEN-CWE-S Corps of Engineers, Dept of the Army Washington, D.C. 20314		12. REPORT DATE October 1975
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office) 12 138 p.		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 136
		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Rockfill Triaxial Compression Test Consolidation Test Abrasion Loss Compressive Strength Shape Factor Scratch Hardness Particle Breakage		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This is a report of the investigation of the relationship between physical properties and two engineering properties; shear strength and consolidation characteristics. Seven rockfill materials were tested using 12-inch diameter specimens with a maximum particle size of 3 or 2½ inches. There was good correlation of shear strength with abrasion loss, hardness, and compressive strength. Strength was proportional to compressive strength and hardness and inversely proportional to abrasion loss. There was good correlation of shape factor and compressive strength with volumetric and axial strain. Materials		

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

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with high shape factor and compressive strength exhibited lower strain at failure. For consolidation, strain increased with increasing void ratio and decreasing compressive strength and shape factor. For all materials, greater strain occurred in the saturated than in the dry condition. Dry density was proportional to shape factor and specific gravity.

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